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## Save the date!

Yes, it's coming! Our Fall 2020 series of meetings will be held online via videoconference in **October**, although there may be a few exceptions to accommodate particular scheduling issues. Stay tuned as our Director of Operations puts together the upcoming schedule.

RESPECT FORUM

# newsletter

Stay tuned and in touch by following us on social media ([respectcanada](https://www.respectcanada.org)) and visiting our website: [respectcanada.org](https://www.respectcanada.org)



**RESPECT**

## Outreach initiatives in 2020

### Academic Outreach

Our Academic Outreach activity was impacted by the situation of COVID-19 which led to the cancellation of many scientific events. However, many contacts with well-known researchers have been developed to make the Respect Forum known and invite them to our events. In addition, the Respect Forum responded to a few requests for collaboration between organizations and between researchers/organizations, including supporting the recruitment of participants for research conducted at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Finally, two draft articles are being considered to make known the initiatives of the Respect Forum on the scientific scene.

### Women's Outreach

Our Women's Outreach activity led us to conclude at a significant lack of research, particularly on women in uniform and the challenges they face. However, there are several programs and organizations specifically oriented to women and helping them resolve these issues. It is with the aim of bringing together both research professionals and support organizations that we are currently planning an invitation only web-conference to be held in the fall of 2020 around the specific needs of women in uniform. Stay tuned for more in the coming weeks.

### Indigenous Outreach

In May 2020, the First Nations National Veterans Group gave its unanimous support to the planning of a 1-day in-person Forum focusing on gaps in services, and strategies to fill those gaps, regarding First Nations veterans and first responders. The event will be co-chaired by the group's chair Larry Whiteduck, and Respect Forum's Director of Indigenous Outreach, Christopher Collrin. In June 2020, Karole Dumont, chair of the Metis Nation of Canada gave her full support for a half-day virtual forum for her group's leadership in September 2020. The Forum will focus on gaps in services to Metis veterans and first responders, and strategies to close those gaps. In June 2020, a contact was made with Canadian Rangers to begin the process of discussion with that group in regard to gaps in services and strategies to close those gaps for indigenous veterans and first responders amongst that group.

Outreach efforts continue with the Metis National Council and the Inuit Tapariit Kanatami (<https://www.itk.ca/>), to open discussions with both those groups in terms of the Respect Forum process.

## Winter 2020

The winter of 2020 focused on preparing for the Spring Respect Forum meetings. The training of facilitators, the launch of invitations to the Respect Forum, the creation of program evaluation tools and the implementation of the development plans of the various Outreach activities formed the focus.



Facilitator training Winter 2020

We had to change all our work tools and re-send all our invitations to share the changes with our participants. Thanks to the dedication and professionalism of our team, it was possible for us to conduct our meetings well, with great success considering the exceptional circumstances.

## Spring 2020

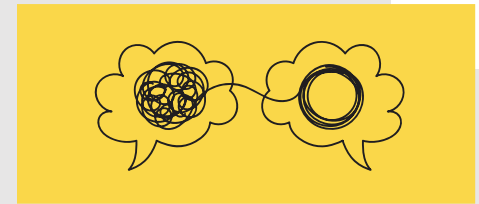
From mid-March to end-April, Respect Forum hosted 22 online meetings in 21 locations across the country, bringing together 265 participants at the local level. We consider this a genuine accomplishment given the need to follow stringent containment guidelines. These meetings were an opportunity to discuss key issues specific to uniformed personnel while questioning the representatives of the organizations in the face of the challenges they face, notably with COVID-19.

The spring was also marked by the presentation of our program evaluation report to our funders. Demonstrating our progress and success in maintaining and achieving our goals, the Respect Forum team is proud of its achievements. The national coordinator of program evaluation also provided a comprehensive report to our teams with the goal of continuous improvement of our meetings. This gives us material for our next facilitator's training to offer more and more interesting meetings for our participants.

## ABOUT THE RESPECT FORUM

Respect Forum promotes collaboration through networking and knowledge sharing to improve mental health services and reduce homelessness for our men and women in uniformed service who run to danger. Our semi-annual meetings in participating cities bring together people from health and social services, government, universities, community organizations, and peer support groups. Participants have the opportunity to talk about their organizations, the services they provide, the challenges they face, and their research and community engagement activities—paving the way to explore possibilities for collaboration and mutual learning. There is no membership in Respect Forum and all participants are the guests of the organizers. Each meeting requires an invitation. Our values are mutual respect; knowledge sharing; diverse participation; different perspectives; and non-partisanship.

## Service mapping pilot project



In June 2020, the Respect Forum team ran a pilot project to test various approaches to service mapping for served communities. Based on an innovative methodology, our facilitators conducted four working meetings with representatives of organizations supporting veterans, firefighters, police officers and paramedics. This project will be developed at the national level for implementation during next fall's meetings.

Respect Forum – Montreal, QC  
Spring 2020

