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The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994

Agreement# 40063171

## Family Violence Not a Unitary Phenomenon



*by Erin Musick, Clinical Supervisor, Mental Health & Justice Programs (South Zone), Alberta Health Services*

**I**ntimate partner violence (IPV) has been long established as a significant issue in every corner of the planet and, closer to home, offender treatment programs have been established and are working to stop abusive behavior at its source.



However, despite these efforts outcomes for treatment are mixed. One critical piece that could improve outcomes is tailoring interventions based on variables, such as the type of perpetrator being treated. Use of violence within an intimate partner relationship is not a unitary phenomenon. Traditionally, interventions have not sought to distinguish types of violence—this is true for victims and perpetrators. This article will outline four types of IPV perpetrators with the suggestion that this knowledge be considered in future treatment planning.

### **Intimate terrorism (IT)**

is based on the dynamics of power and coercive control and is primarily perpetrated by men against women in heterosexual relationships (89% men, 11% women). In IT, the violence frequently escalates in terms of severity and there are typically more violent episodes than in situational couple violence and a higher incidence of injury to victims.

### **Violent resistance**

occurs when the resister is violent but not controlling, and is faced with a partner who is violent and controlling. This type of violence may be an attempt to defend or stop

the violence, or may be motivated by escape. Violent resistance is primarily exhibited by women to resist male violence (15% men, 85% women). Women will resist violently approximately three-quarters of the time in the context of IT. This action is often short lived as it most often proves to be ineffective or makes things worse.

### **Mutual violent control**

occurs in a small number of cases where both members of the couple are violent and controlling. Each partner could be identified

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## 2017 RESOLVE Award Recipients



by Jane Ursel



Dr. Robbie Babins-Wagner



From left: Frankie Jordan, Dr. Mary Hampton



From left: Lori Rudniski, Suhad Bisharat

**W**e were pleased to host the 3rd annual RESOLVE Award ceremony at this year's Research Day in Winnipeg. This award is given to a member of our community in each province in recognition of their distinguished contribution to creating homes and communities safe from interpersonal violence and abuse. Our three worthy 2017 recipients are **Rachelle (Robbie) Babins-Wagner**, Calgary Alberta; **Frankie Jordan**, Regina Saskatchewan and **Lori Rudniski**, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Over the course of her 35-year career, **Dr. Robbie Babins-Wagner**, PhD, RSW, has contributed to transforming the way Albertans receive, perceive and deliver domestic violence services. With her leadership as CEO of Calgary Counselling Centre, she has been involved in virtually every major innovation in domestic violence services in Calgary. When she joined the Centre in 1991, Robbie led changes to the men's domestic violence treatment program that resulted in an unparalleled number of men completing treatment. Under her leadership, The Wilson Centre for Domestic Abuse Studies opened its doors at the Calgary Counselling Centre in 2012. Robbie has also been actively involved in RESOLVE since its inception, as a member of the Alberta steering committee, and as Alberta community representative. Robbie has shared her wisdom and experience as a co-investigator and collaborator on many RESOLVE research projects.

From 1996 to her recent retirement **Frankie Jordan** worked for the

provincial and federal governments, as well as community organizations in the areas of interpersonal violence and abuse, crime prevention, victims' services, courts and program evaluation. She recently retired from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General as a Policy Analyst for the Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch. In that position she designed and implemented programs, policies and procedures focused on violence against women and children and keeping families safe. Examples include Saskatchewan's Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act, the Children Exposed to Violence Program, and the Aboriginal Family Violence Program. She also played a key role in supporting the establishment of the specialized Family Violence Courts in Regina, Saskatoon and Yorkton.

In 2004, **Lori Rudniski** became the Executive Director of Bravestone Centre. Bravestone Centre is a second stage facility that provides women and their children affected by domestic violence with full-time counselling and support programs while living in the safety of the program residence. Under her leadership, the Centre has expanded their services and client capacity, increased security to residents and facility, and has attained national accreditation through Imagine Canada. Lori strongly supports evidence-based programming and has ensured that research plays an integral part in the ongoing development and delivery of services at Bravestone. As a licensed therapist and certified Counsellor Supervisor, Lori is very active in counsellor education. She has taught at college and university levels and currently teaches at the University of Manitoba in the Faculty of Extended Education. ❧

## Manitoba Update: Research Day 2017



by Jane Ursel

**R**esearch Day 2017 was held in Winnipeg this year. A dessert reception was held on October 19 to honour our 2017 RESOLVE Award recipients (see Page 2). We were pleased to have the **Honourable Myrna Driedger**, Speaker of the House, to bring greetings from the Manitoba Legislature, **Dr. Raymond Currie** to bring greetings from the University of Manitoba, and **Marlene Bertrand** bringing greetings from Prairieaction Foundation.



Lori Rudniski, Myrna Driedger, Frankie Jordan

This year RESOLVE Manitoba partnered with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre to sponsor our Research Day. They provided their expertise to organize panels, provide Indigenous counselors for culturally-safe debriefing and opened our day with a traditional Indigenous prayer and song. We are very grateful for all of the support we received from their staff and volunteers. We had a full house on October 20, with 352 registrants from communities across Manitoba, as well as presenters and registrants from Saskatchewan and Alberta. We are particularly thankful to the Prairieaction Foundation for supporting shelter workers from the First Nations Healing Centre in Peguis and a number of volunteers from urban agencies.

This year's theme was *Trauma Informed: Treatment, Intervention and Prevention*. We had a full slate of sessions with two keynote presentations. **Brenda Reynolds**, Trauma Specialist for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, provided the opening plenary and **Senator Murray Sinclair** provided the closing plenary. We appreciate the Senator's particular generosity to RESOLVE and his commitment to prioritizing Manitoba events in light of his substantial National obligations. The rest of the day was packed with five concurrent sessions in the morning and six in the afternoon.

There was a strong sense of community and agency collaboration to respond to the more challenging issues we face in our society. A morning panel on sexually exploited youth brought together **Diane Redsky**, a national leader in research on sexually exploited youth and human trafficking; **Carrie Blaydon**, Co-chair of the Sexually Exploited Youth Community Coalition; and **Marie Koniuck**, a Winnipeg Police Sergeant with the counter exploitation unit, to talk about the work they do together to reduce the incidents of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Sessions ranged from discussions of vicarious trauma to trauma-informed treatment for men and women with abusive behaviour, new challenges in shelter services, to the pressing issue of the trauma refugees experience fleeing war-torn countries. We are very privileged to have **Dr. Lori Wilkinson**, an internationally renowned expert on immigration and refugees, lead a panel on trauma and the refugee experience, with **Hani Ataan Al-Ubeady** of Immigrant Partnerships and **John Smyth**, Executive Director of Aurora Family Centre.



Senator Murray Sinclair, Dr. Jane Ursel

Organizing a Research Day is an "all hands on deck" phenomenon. I would like to thank our office manager **Cyndi Porcher**, my colleague **Cheryl**

**Fraehlich**, our energetic research assistants and our Steering Committee members for their all-out efforts prior to and during the Day. Finally, it is very important to acknowledge the financial support we received from the Prairieaction Foundation, Faculties of Social Work and Arts, Department of Sociology and the University of Manitoba Conference Sponsorship Program. Their financial support allows us to host a conference profiling high quality research and innovative programming for a nominal registration fee. This is our way to thank the multitude of service providers and agencies we work with to undertake pragmatic, program- and policy-focused research in our community. ❀

## Saskatchewan Update



### Introducing Our Steering Committee Member: Karen Wood

**K**aren's commitment to research and practice in the area of family violence began while she was working as one of the few early childhood trained daycare staff in New Brunswick in the late 1970s. She saw young children display behaviours that indicated family violence, including child sexual abuse, and she saw actions that troubled her but that she felt poorly equipped to address, leading her to two questions that guided her for the rest of her career: 1) How can we respond to the needs of those who experience interpersonal violence; and, 2) Is it possible that, in the name of helping, we are hurting? These questions led her to pursue a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Calgary and subsequently a Masters of Education (Cultural Studies) at Queen's University, and a PhD in Community Health and Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan, where she developed a model of healing in adulthood from the impact of child sexual abuse.

Throughout her career, and in particular through her work in crisis intervention, addictions, justice, community education, and non-profit organizations that address interpersonal violence and the impacts of residential schools, it became clear to Karen that violence underscores the many complex and sometimes overwhelming challenges that so many in our communities face. Today, a dynamic that Karen is particularly troubled by is the broad narrative that constitutes those who have been abused, as 'permanently harmed.' Recognizing that the impacts of violence can be, and often are, experienced by a person throughout their lifetime, by emphasizing the narrative of harm regarding the impact of abuse on someone, or some community—the person or community who has been harmed can become positioned as the problem, and attention is deflected away from the real problem: that of abuse, abusers, and the broader systemic practices that enable abuse.



A recipient of the 2016 RESOLVE Saskatchewan Excellence in Community Service and Research Award, Karen became involved with RESOLVE as a community partner for *The Healing Journey* longitudinal study and in 2008 became a RESOLVE Saskatchewan steering committee member. She has served on a number of committees with RESOLVE, including the Protocol and the Review Committees for the Healing Journey research project, and the Membership committee for the RESOLVE Saskatchewan Steering Committee. She has been principal investigator on grants related to RESOLVE, including funding from the Prairieaction Foundation for a CARE grant entitled, *Healing in community: An evaluation of the Residential Healing Program at Tamara's House Services for Sexual Abuse Survivors, Inc.* In addition to this work, Karen is a published author in various publications, reports and working papers. At present, she is engaged as community partner with

**Dr. Stephanie Martin** on her exciting *Using Digital Storytelling to Empower Young Women Exposed to Dating Violence* research project.

Today, Karen's research and direct-practice interests as a community consultant include prevention of, intervention in, and healing from child sexual abuse and family violence; Indigenous and cross-cultural healing; advocating for a provincial Saskatchewan violence strategy; healthy organizations through healthy policy; and, community-based and participatory action health research. Committed to the challenge, and responsibility, of holding what a colleague suggests are 'multiple and seemingly conflicting narratives,' Karen continues to engage in practices that recognize the impact of abuse on a person; that nurtures and recognizes the resilience of those impacted; and that recognizes, and disrupts, the problem, which is the abuse itself. ✂

## Alberta Update: *Newest RESOLVE Alberta Steering Committee Members*



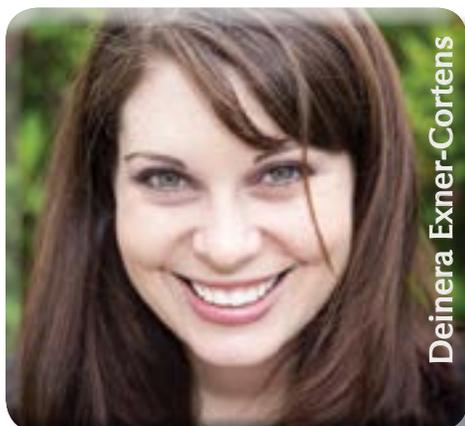
by Nela Cosic and Nicole Letourneau

In this issue's Alberta Update, we are delighted to welcome our newest RESOLVE Alberta Steering Committee members: **Josie Nepinak**, **Deinera Exner-Cortens**, and **Priyadarshini Kharat**.



Josie Nepinak

**Josie Nepinak** is the Executive Director of Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society and has an undergraduate degree in Women's Studies. Appropriately named "Awo Taan", which means "shield" in the Blackfoot language, is the only Emergency Women's Shelter in Calgary where the traditional holistic and spiritual teachings of the Aboriginal people's Medicine Wheel are practiced throughout a variety of programs. The shelter's programs are provided to women and children of all cultural backgrounds who have been affected by violence. We are thrilled to have Josie join our steering committee given her extensive 25 year experience working with abused women and children, and her particular expertise in working with the Indigenous population. Josie is Indigenous herself—she is Anishinabe from the treaty four area. She advocates for Aboriginal wisdom and healing to be used in combination with contemporary western methodologies to promote health and well-being of families and communities of all backgrounds.



Deinera Exner-Cortens

**Deinera Exner-Cortens** joined the University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work as an Assistant Professor in July 2016. Deinera holds

a doctorate in Developmental Psychology from Cornell University, and a Master of Public Health from Boston University. She completed her CIHR-funded postdoctoral work at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's Centre for Prevention Science in London, ON and at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. Deinera frequently collaborates with academic experts across a variety of disciplines and with community partners to better understand how to prevent violence and promote well-being among adolescents. Her current projects focus primarily on the implementation, evaluation and scale-up of programs that teach adolescents about healthy relationships. Given Deinera's expertise and evident commitment to diminishing violence among adolescents through effective education and programs, we are delighted to work with her on upcoming RESOLVE projects. Her contributions will certainly be of great value.



Priya Kharat

**Priyadarshini (Priya) Kharat** is a registered social worker and counsellor (Instructor) at the University of Calgary's Wellness Centre, where she works extensively with international

students and she serves as the co-chair of the Ethno-Culturally Diverse Communities Committee of Calgary. Priya has completed her PhD at the University of Calgary, and her research has focused on understanding the influence of resettlement on intimate partner violence among the South Asian immigrant community. This community faces a variety of obstacles in seeking help to flee violence and abuse, including gender specific societal norms, societal incrimination, structural and institutional barriers, and stereotypes that often lead to mistrust of community members and service providers. She

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as an intimate terrorist and engaging in true mutual combat. Not a lot is known about these couples but they are often referred to as Bonnie and Clyde couples.

### **Situational Couple Violence (SCV)**

is the most common type of partner violence. This type of violence does not involve any attempt to gain general control over the relationship but may be about controlling a situation. Violence may be minor and singular or chronic and either minor or severe. It can look exactly like IT but is missing the underlying motive and context (i.e. power and control). SCV occurs almost equally among men and women (55% men, 45% women). Violence is not a central part of the relationship and the majority report satisfaction with the relationship.

### **Coercion**

Coercive control is the key to understanding differences among the different types of offenders. Once we know violence has occurred we need to know whether the violence was enacted in the general context of power and control (Johnson, 2008). Coercive control involves getting someone to do something they do not want to do by using or threatening negative consequences for non-compliance. The perpetrator must make it clear that he or she is willing and able to impose punishment if necessary. **This understanding is critical.** IPV enacted to establish and maintain general control over one's partner is very different from the other forms of violence in intimate relationships, and this long-unrecognized difference has been the source of much confusion and conflict in the research literature on IPV.

### **Offender Treatment**

Integrating IPV classifications with assessment and treatment is a step towards the development of a multi-faceted, and a more tailored approach that may improve the way we measure, predict, theorize, and make policies about IPV. This means that treatment is guided by assessment and good clinical practice rather than ideology. The most common type of treatment model for perpetrators is a feminist psycho-education model that is based on a conceptualization of domestic violence as intimate terrorism (Dutton, 2007). This model has been very useful in helping us understand the underlying dynamics of intimate terrorism. However, given that not all offenders are intimate terrorists, this has obvious

limitations.

Treatment focused skill development (e.g. anger management, healthy conflict resolution, communication) may be more appropriate and can be flexed to include trauma and attachment, personality features, and relevant feelings and perceptions. This type of treatment would likely be more effective for SCV individuals, both male and female.

Into the future we can continue to explore more flexible treatment alternatives, including intensive individual therapy, structured couples counseling, mixed-gender perpetrator groups, family therapy, and restorative justice approaches. More research is needed to better understand the needs of female perpetrators and the types of treatment most effective for different offender types. Expanding our understanding of IPV as a multi-faceted and complex issue allows to better tailor treatment to produce more effective outcomes, and that benefits everyone. ✂



Erin Musick

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



**November 25 – December 10, 2017 - 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence: *Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls*.** This year's theme reinforces the UNiTE Campaign's commitment to a world free from violence for all women and girls around the world, while reaching the most underserved and marginalized, including refugees, migrants, minorities, indigenous peoples, and populations affected by conflict and natural disasters, amongst others, first. For more information refer to [www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism](http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism).

**December 6, 2017 - National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women.** Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. They died because they were women. For more information refer to [www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/remembrance-commemoration-en.html](http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/remembrance-commemoration-en.html).

**December 17, 2017 - International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers.** The majority of violence against sex workers is not just violence against sex workers—it's also violence against transwomen, against women of colour, against drug users, against immigrants. We cannot end the marginalization and victimization of all sex workers without also fighting trans-phobia, racism, stigma and criminalization of drug use, and xenophobia [www.december17.org](http://www.december17.org).

**March 19 – 22, 2018 - 34th Annual International Symposium on Child Abuse,** in Huntsville, Alabama, USA, presented by the National Children's Advocacy Center. This symposium provides expert training and numerous networking opportunities to professionals in the child maltreatment field, and is one of the few conferences that addresses all aspects of child maltreatment, including but not limited to physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, exposure to violence, poly-victimization, exploitation, intervention, trafficking, and prevention. For more information refer to [www.nationalcac.org/symposium-about](http://www.nationalcac.org/symposium-about).

**March 20 – 23, 2018 - Canadian Domestic Violence Conference 5 (CDVC5)** at the Nova Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The CDVC5 has been specifically designed to foster knowledge in bringing about effective interventions and conversations with women, men and children dealing with domestic violence in various professional contexts. While primarily emphasizing men's violence against women, this conference will also focus conversations on the margins of the field, such as violence in same-sex relationships; violence with people with disabilities; in Aboriginal relationships; first generation immigrant relationships; and straight women's perpetration of abuse. To address the diversity among women, the conference will explore conversations with women who want to leave, women who are ambivalent about their relationships and women who know they want to stay. This broad range of discussions will include individual, couple, family and group conversations. CDVC5 will highlight trailblazing community initiatives designed to challenge social determinants of domestic violence. For more information refer to [canadiandomesticviolenceconference.org](http://canadiandomesticviolenceconference.org).

**April 3 – 5, 2018 - International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Gender Bias** at the Hilton Chicago, in Chicago, IL, USA. This annual conference focuses on sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, human trafficking and elder abuse. The three-day conference highlights promising practices and emerging issues to effectively respond to these crimes in all of our communities. For more information refer to [www.evawintl.org/conferences.aspx](http://www.evawintl.org/conferences.aspx).

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is an expert in intimate partner violence among immigrant women and refugees and has had over 13 years of experience working with this population in Canada in a variety of roles. Thus, Priya fills a crucial gap in the RESOLVE Alberta steering committee, as she brings an understanding of how the challenges immigrant women in Canada face may be overcome.

More details on our steering committee members can be found on our website [www.ucalgary.ca/resolve](http://www.ucalgary.ca/resolve). ☘

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## November: Family Violence Awareness Month



*Photo credit: Mike Sudoma Photography*

*From left to right:* Suhad Bisharat, the Fire Heart Drummers—Tara Campbell, Sky Campbell, Skye Templeman, Krista Stacey, Marlena Muir, Pam Paddock, and Kerry Holmes—and Lori Rudniski

November is Family Violence Awareness month in several provinces in Canada including Manitoba. To acknowledge this important month, the Manitoba Consortium of Family Violence Services hosted an official launch on November 1. One hundred and fifty service providers, policy makers and researchers came to hear the keynote speaker, **Dina Juras**, Regional Director, Public Health Agency of Canada, on the topic *Domestic Violence is a Public Health Issue*. **Elder Madeline Hatch** provided the opening prayer and the **Fire Heart Drummers** provided opening and closing songs. MLA **Janice Morley-Lecomte** brought greetings from the Province. The event included a very stimulating panel discussion. RESOLVE would like to thank **Suhad Bisharat** and **Lori Rudniski** for organizing this successful event. ✂

### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

~ Dr. Jane Ursef ~  
Acting Director (RESOLVE)

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