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

Agreement# 40063171

## Experiences of Men Who Attended Domestic Violence Treatment Programs and Made Changes to End Violence in Their Intimate Relationships

✂ ✂ ✂  
*by Crystal Giesbrecht*

**M**y Master of Social Work thesis research study at the University of Regina (summarized in a presentation at RESOLVE Research Day 2014), sought to understand experiences of men who were violent in their intimate relationships, attended domestic violence treatment programs, and successfully made changes toward an end of their violent behaviour. Phenomenological research methods were used to conduct in-depth qualitative interviews with four men who attended Domestic Abuse/Violence Treatment Programs (DAVTPs) and made changes to their behaviour. While not all men who attend DAVTPs make changes, a change among even a few participants makes a substantial difference in the lives of women and children.

Whether they were court-mandated to attend a treatment program or self-referred, it took some time—in some cases two or three years—for the interviewed participants to “buy in” to the program. Until that happened, other things helped to keep them there, such as potential legal impacts and feeling welcomed and supported by program facilitators. Once these men accepted their responsibility—and understood that they needed to work on themselves—they could make changes. Changes that participants made to end violence in their relationships began with an acceptance of responsibility for their violent



*Crystal Giesbrecht*

behaviour, and recognition that the cause of their violence and the changes that they had to make were internal, not external. Realization that the changes that needed to happen were within themselves gave the men agency to do something about the problem.

The men’s descriptions of their formative years included the notion of typical masculine behaviour; they spoke of growing up with the idea that being a man meant not showing their emotions. Getting in touch with their emotions helped the men to

be successful in the DAVTPs and to make positive changes in many of their relationships, not just in their intimate partnerships.

Three of the four participants continued to attend maintenance programs after completion of the DAVTPs, as they continued to need a safe space to talk about their feelings. These men all emphasized

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## The 2014 Manitoba Trauma Forum



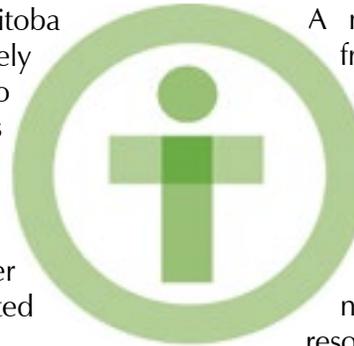
by the Manitoba Trauma Collaborative (MTC)

The first Manitoba Trauma Forum in 2007 resulted in concrete recommendations to build awareness and capacity around trauma-informed care in Manitoba. Upon achievement of these recommendations it became apparent that the next steps were to make systems of care more trauma-informed. In an effort to guide this process the MTC turned, as they did in the first forum, to Manitoba service providers, from direct services and from management and policy making.

On November 3 and 4, the second trauma forum—a joint undertaking by the MTC, the Manitoba Trauma Information and Education Centre (MTIEC), and the Manitoba Government—was held. Approximately 250 attendees met in Winnipeg to discuss the next steps to make services and systems trauma-informed in Manitoba. Northern, rural, and urban areas of Manitoba and health, justice, family violence, child and youth, shelter and counselling agencies were represented among conference attendees.

This two-day conference provided information on evidence-based trauma-informed approaches to services and systems. Keynote speakers included **Dr. Heather Larkin**, Associate Professor at the School of Social Welfare Policy at the University of Albany (SUNY), New York, who developed an application of the Restorative Integral Support Model for services to the homeless and has done research on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in social work education and community programming. Dr. Larkin spoke about the results of the ACE Study in the U.S. and how the assessment of these experiences could help agencies and systems become more trauma-informed. More information on ACE studies can be found at [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html). **Nancy Poole**, Director of the Centre for Excellence in Women's Health in BC, and Prevention Lead for CAFASD, has been involved with building knowledge exchange networks and developing programs on issues

related to trauma and substance abuse. Ms. Poole spoke about how to make agencies and systems more trauma-informed and provided examples of how this is being done in Canada. **Dr. Ed. Connor**, a clinical psychologist from Ontario, presented a First Nation's perspective on trauma-informed practices and how First Nations and mainstream approaches are more similar than different in goals and approaches. Dr. Connor is on the CASP (Canadian Association of Suicide Prevention) board of directors. A video of Dr. Larkin's talk and the PowerPoint slides for Ms. Poole's and Dr. Connor's presentations can be found on the MTC website [www.trauma-informed.ca](http://www.trauma-informed.ca).



A number of questions were generated from these presentations, many of which have been posted for discussion on the online trauma forum. The online forum promotes trauma-informed practices and policies by facilitating conversations and information sharing on trauma-related issues. This forum consists of a number of topics such as intervention, resources, policy, and program development. Individuals can post questions, read responses, and add to the conversation on previously posted questions. MTC invites everyone to become part of the online community at [www.traumacommunity.com](http://www.traumacommunity.com).

In addition, through small group discussions, the forum gathered information from attendees related to how to make their workplace, organizations, and larger systems of services more trauma-informed. Responses to these questions were gathered and will be analysed and used to develop recommendations for next steps in the process of becoming a trauma-informed province. A report consisting of a summary of the forum proceedings, responses to the small group discussions, and the resulting recommendations and immediate, intermediate and long-term goals will be developed and posted on the MTC website by March 2015. These goals will guide the MTC's future activities. Anyone who wants to join the MTC in these new endeavors can contact the MTIEC at [mtiec@klinik.mb.ca](mailto:mtiec@klinik.mb.ca). ☘

## Manitoba Update: *RESOLVE* Community Working at Home and Around the World



**R**ESOLVE has always had a keen interest in working with colleagues around the world. Over the years we have hosted research scholars from Australia, Portugal, China, Sweden and England. We learn a great deal from these international exchanges and often have the opportunity to share our work internationally. An excellent example of this exchange are the international activities of **Joan Durrant** and **Christine Ateah**, both active members of our Steering Committee.

Joan Durrant was awarded a grant from Grand Challenges: Stars in Global Health to mobilize *Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting* (PDEP) in low- and middle-income countries. She created this universal violence prevention program in collaboration with Save the Children Sweden. The program helps parents shift their focus from punishment to non-violent, mutually respectful problem solving with their children. Its framework is based on recent research on children's emotional, cognitive and brain development, as well as children's rights to protection, participation and dignity. With the Grand Challenges grant, Joan and her team are working with local Save the Children staff to implement the program in

Kosovo and in Kenya's Dadaab Refugee camp, as well as in Ontario and Saskatchewan. Christine Ateah, is a key member of the PDEP team. She is currently in Prishtina, Kosovo, to train local Save the Children staff, and build their capacity to sustain the program in that country.

**Jane Ursel** was nominated by the American Embassy to participate in a three-city tour in the United States this February. Jane is one of ten Canadians selected to visit communities around the country that have developed innovative domestic violence programs. While the itinerary has not yet been finalized, we look forward to a report on this trip in our next issue.

While many of our RESOLVE members are active internationally, we also have a stellar cast of Steering Committee members who work locally to create safer homes and safer communities. As we celebrated the imminent retirement of a long time Committee member **Tim Wall**, we realized what rich human resources we had sitting around the table at each Steering Committee meeting. As a result, we decided that on our provincial update pages, we would introduce you to one member (each issue) of this amazing cast of community activists and program innovators. ☘

### Thank You and Farewell to Tim Wall

*by Jocelyn Proulx*



Tim Wall

For the last 35 years **Tim Wall** has worked towards promotion of compassion and evidence-based research into all levels of care, first as a clinician and then as the Director of Counselling Services at Klinik Community Health Centre. As Executive Director for the Canadian Association of Suicide Prevention for the past five years, and the current Co-chair of the Winnipeg Suicide Prevention Network, Tim has been active in bringing suicide prevention training and resources to the service provider community. As Chair/Co-chair of the Manitoba Trauma Collaborative (MTC) for the past seven years, he has championed trauma-informed services within all service sectors and levels of policy. Among the many initiatives initiated by Tim and the MTC have been the development of the Manitoba Information and Education Centre that provides a plethora of online resources, the development and evaluation of in-person and online training for trauma-informed recovery, and the organization of two in-person trauma forums and one online forum that have guided the work of the MTC and resulted in the term trauma-informed as part of the common service provider vernacular. RESOLVE is proud to state that Tim was a long-time member of our Steering Committee and supported RESOLVE through a number of research projects and initiatives. ☘

## Saskatchewan Update



by Kaitlyn Giles

**A**s a research assistant working on the *Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence* in Regina, I have had the privilege of participating in numerous phases of the second year of the project. From the transcription of interviews to assisting in the Northern focus group, I have observed the development of this project and I have grown as a person. The purpose of this article is to discuss a few of the invaluable lessons, learned primarily during my experience assisting with the Northern focus group.

### 1. Completely comprehending the conditions that precipitate intimate partner violence (IPV).

As an academic, I assumed that I had a strong understanding of the factors, like low socio-economic status, isolation or lack of access, which can place rural and Northern women at an increased risk to experience IPV. However, while sitting in my academic ivory tower with my theoretical concepts, I had never actually experienced what poverty, or isolation was. After my experience up North, I realized how little I actually understood.

Although I will not ever attempt to compare my first-hand experiences of driving through a community to the everyday experience of a resident in that community, I was forever changed by what I saw. Upon first glance, the low socio-economic conditions of our site were quite obvious; it was clear there was no economy in this community. Additionally, the isolation was very evident; there was only one way into the community. The closest town to our site was over an hour away, via vehicle, on less than favorable roads. Lastly, the lack of services available in the town really stood out.

Through this visualization and the discussion in the focus group, I was better able to connect the dots. I began to see how factors interact to place individuals at an increased risk to experience violence. For example, if an individual lives in poverty in an isolated community with limited services, how are they supposed to protect themselves from violence? Where

are they supposed to go? Who are they supposed to turn to? These conditions, among others, severely affect the one's ability to protect and free oneself from violence.

### 2. Sometimes leaving is not that simple.

I always used to believe that if an individual were ever hit that they should just leave. Through this project—especially during the focus group—I have come to learn that the solution is never that black or white. Firstly, abuse is insidious; it progresses from emotional to verbal to physical. By the time it progresses to physical violence, the individual has already been beaten down, confidence destroyed. Leaving becomes challenging. Secondly, not all abusive relationships are completely negative, as there are bonds that may keep people connected despite the pain and damage the partner might inflict. Thirdly, for women living in rural and Northern conditions (due to limited services), leaving means potentially giving up your children, community, home, culture, family and the life you know.



Kaitlyn Giles

### 3. A community cannot be defined by its statistics.

Despite the statistics on violence in our Northern site, I could not help but notice the sense of hope and optimism that many of the service providers hold. They were all very welcoming, knowledgeable, proud of, and connected to, their community; they had a vision of a healthier and happier way of life. However, this vision of a healthy, non-violent community can only be achieved if severe gaps in services are addressed.

In conclusion, my journey with this project has been cathartic and educational in many ways. This experience has helped me to better understand IPV from on an academic, personal, and professional level. Carrying this knowledge forward, I am dedicating my Master's of Public Policy research to creating policy to help remedy service gaps—primarily in the area of justice responses—for victims of intimate partner violence. ☘

## Alberta Update: *Perceptions of Risk and Coping Mechanisms Among Victims of Domestic Violence*



by Lorena Kembel



Lorena Kembel

In an attempt to reduce recidivism among offenders and provide greater safety for victims in Central Alberta, a multi-agency approach was developed to deal with domestic violence. Comprised of stakeholders from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Community Corrections, the Crown Prosecutor's Office,

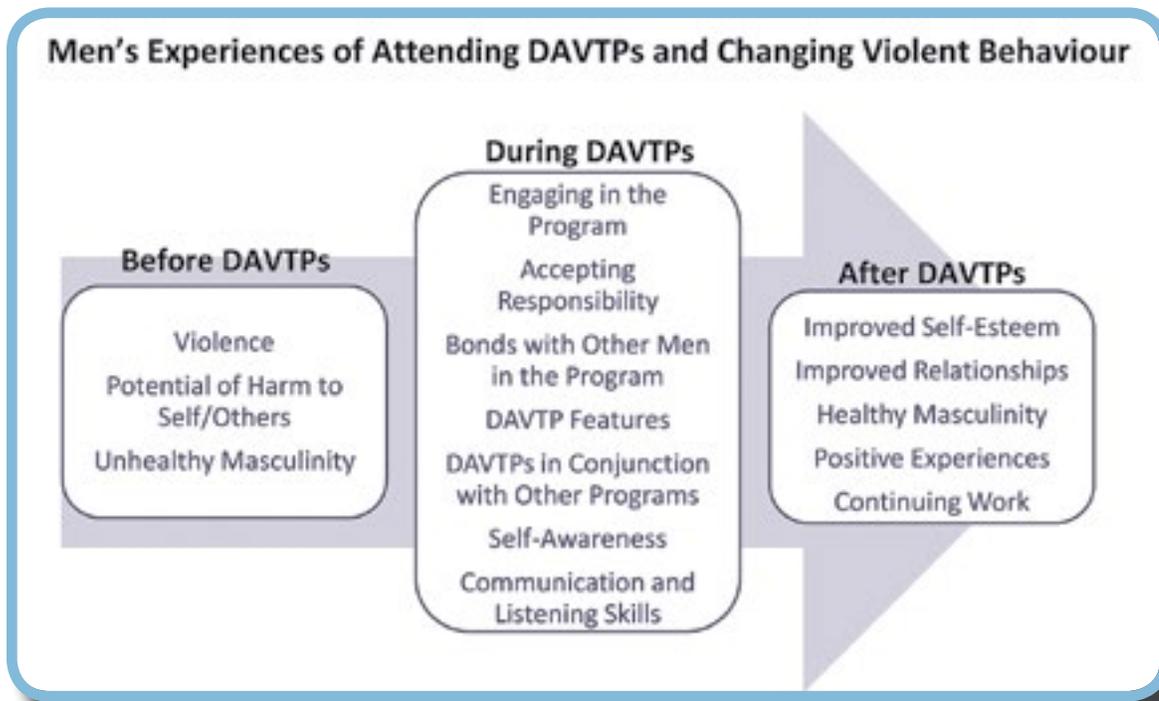
Children and Family Services, Women's Outreach, as well as the local Women's Emergency Shelter, this collaborative approach aims to provide a coordinated response to domestic violence. As part of this initiative, a pilot project was undertaken to equip high-risk domestic violence offenders with Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking technologies. Upon conviction, a court order allows for real time Electronic Monitoring (EM) of high-risk offenders. This order imposes geographic exclusion areas as well as no-contact between the offender and the victim. The victim is consulted throughout the proceedings and must be a willing participant. If the victim is not willing to follow the no-contact provision, the GPS-EM is not imposed.

A women's emergency shelter took this idea to the next level and offered GPS tracking devices to victims of domestic violence. In addition to GPS tracking abilities, this device also has a two-way cellular voice technology and an SOS alert button. A woman can request to obtain the device directly at the Shelter, or alternatively can be referred by one of the Shelter crisis workers or community partners. Prior to obtaining the device the woman provides information on her home, work and vehicle, as well as information on any children and emergency contacts. Information about and a picture of the offender is also gathered. This information is stored at the GPS monitoring centre, whereupon the woman's location is continually tracked. In the event of an SOS alert, the two-way cellular voice function allows for hands-free communication with the control centre. Shelter emergency contacts are also automatically notified of the alert through SMS or e-mail. The control centre operator has the ability to alert local emergency

services and provide them with the victim's GPS location and specific file notes. A shelter contact can also be provided if the emergency responders require more information. A woman can choose to discontinue use of the device at any time.

Given evolving technological advances, GPS tracking has increasingly been applied to domestic violence situations. To date, little research exists on the use of GPS technologies and its effects on victims of domestic violence. As a graduate student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Calgary, I wanted to look at how victims of domestic violence are impacted by this technology. Through this study I will examine differences and similarities in how victims perceive and cope with domestic violence—with and without the presence of GPS technologies—with the goal of contributing to a greater understanding of the benefits and challenges associated with these programs. In addition, this research will also add an important layer to victimization literature by broadening our understanding of the scope of protective measures (and implications of these measures), with a specific focus on the nature of victim protection in the circumstances of domestic violence.

To achieve this understanding, I will look at two groups of women: women who have participated in the program available to them through the local Women's Emergency Shelter, as well as women whose former partners (offenders) have been placed on the court mandated GPS device. As a comparison, my study will also look at women at the Women's Emergency Shelter who have not been part of either of the GPS programs. This study will attempt to understand how perceptions of risk and coping mechanisms among the groups of women differ in order to inform policy and better protect women involved in domestic violence. To date, 16 interviews have been conducted and are currently being transcribed, with qualitative analysis of the data to commence this spring. Given that the project was undertaken for an MA level thesis, the size of the groups are meant to be large enough to speculate on the differences among them, but also reflect the reality of the difficulty in recruitment of participants, as well as time constraints of an MA program. I look forward to sharing results in a future RESOLVE newsletter. ☘

*Treatment Programs.. cont. from Page 1*

Building self-esteem and becoming aware of their personal strengths increased men's feelings of agency and helped to build their positive self-esteem and feelings of self-efficacy, which assisted them to make changes in their lives.

After attending DAVTPs, these four men successfully refrained from perpetrating

that they felt that they could not talk about their emotions or the things that they learned in the programs to their male friends. An important finding of this study was that men need a group or a person to talk to after completion of their time in the DAVTP, whether it is a maintenance group, support group, or a relationship with a peer or mentor. This study found that closed groups work especially well, as they increase the feeling of safety and increase bonding between participants.

Overall, things that participants found most helpful included the safety of the group environment and the bonds that they formed with their co-participants. The most important things that participants learned in the programs, which were intrinsic to their process of ending violence in their relationships and remaining violence-free, included increased self-awareness; improved communication skills; and the realization that they needed to continue to work on themselves. Self-awareness is vital not only in terms of noticing and coping with negative emotions, but in recognizing one's own strengths. An awareness of their own positive attributes and skills helped the men increase their self-esteem and build the sense of self-efficacy that they needed to make sustainable changes.

Another finding of the study was that self-esteem—which is likely already low in men who perpetrate intimate partner violence—was lowered even further after arrest and/or self-identification as a perpetrator of violence.

violence in their relationships, and gained improved communication skills, emotional awareness, and self-esteem. All participants reported improved relationships with others in their lives beyond their intimate partner. From the men's narratives about the changes they experienced after participation in the DAVTPs, it was apparent that the program helped men to make positive changes that affected all areas of their lives and improved their situations overall.

Results provide recommendations for practice, including the length of time participants spend in treatment—often months or years as opposed to weeks—and opportunities for them to receive continual support, such as maintenance groups, after completion of program requirements. These results also point to the need for more research into what helps men to change their abusive behaviour.

While the change process of one's violent behaviour is a difficult and lengthy—and certainly not all perpetrators of intimate partner violence will change—positive outcomes seen by these participants and others like them indicates that this work is worthwhile. I believe that the work that helps men end the violence in their lives can increase women's safety and improve the lived realities of women and men. ☘

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



International  
Women's Day

**March 8 – International Women's Day 2015: MAKE IT HAPPEN.** Support International Women's Day online.

Use your voice via social media:

- #MakeItHappen
- #womensday

- #IWD2015
- #internationalwomensday
- #PaintItPurple

Interact with womensday on:

- **Twitter:** [twitter.com/womensday](https://twitter.com/womensday)
- **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/Internationalwomensday](https://www.facebook.com/Internationalwomensday)
- **Youtube:** [www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=International%20Women's%20Day](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=International%20Women's%20Day)
- **LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/groups/internationalwomensday-1406777](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/internationalwomensday-1406777)
- **Pinterest:** [www.pinterest.com/womensday/pins/](https://www.pinterest.com/womensday/pins/)

Search for local events at [www.internationalwomensday.com/esearch.asp?country=37](http://www.internationalwomensday.com/esearch.asp?country=37).

**April 22 – Healing the Pain...Reclaiming the Spirit: Laurel Centre 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.** The Laurel Centre invites you to attend our *30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Breakfast* at the Fort Garry Hotel, Provencher Ballroom. The program will begin at 7:30 a.m. Share in the celebration with an energizing breakfast with guest speaker **Silken Laumann**—four time Olympian and author—as well as door prize and raffle. Tickets can be purchased for \$35 per person, or \$325 for a table of 10. All table purchases will be recognized on the event program. For more information, or ticket purchase, please call **Joyce Coady** at **204-783-5460 ext 16**, or online at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca). (Note an additional fee will be charged for processing).

**April 24 – Annual Silent Witness Project Memorial**, presented by The Family Violence Consortium of Manitoba. This event will be held 11:30 a.m. – 1p.m., at the West End Cultural Centre, 586 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, MB. The Silent Witness Project welcomes all members of the public to honour and remember the Manitoban women who have died by the hands of their partners. During the Memorial, speakers will address the issue of domestic violence and the families in attendance may speak about their family member.

The Silent Witness initiative consists of a travelling exhibit of life-sized wooden silhouettes; each red figure represents a Manitoban woman who has been murdered by her intimate partner. In each case, the woman's partner has been convicted of the murder or both have died in a murder/suicide. Because these women no longer have a voice, the silhouettes are called the Silent Witnesses. For more information please call **Joyce Coady** at **204-783-5460 ext 16**

**May 7– Golden Apron Gala Cooking Competition**, presented by Wolseley Family Place at the Caboto Centre in Winnipeg, MB. Jan Sanderson, Chief Cook of the Flashes in the Pan, winners of the 2014 Golden Apron Gala Cooking Competition, has thrown down the Golden Gauntlet, challenging Teams of Competitor Cooks to step up to the (hot) plate once again! Everyone is invited to put forward a Team to compete with these fierce contenders. If you think you have what it takes, let us know! This year promises to be as exciting as last year . . . here's a little video on the Wolseley Family Place website to whet your appetite [www.wolseleyfamilyplace.com](http://www.wolseleyfamilyplace.com). For more information contact **Pamela Mason** by e-mail at [nowhere@mts.net](mailto:nowhere@mts.net) or by telephone at **204-774-1837**.



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## Carolynne Boivan Bursary

February is the time of year that RESOLVE Manitoba puts out a call for applications to the Boivin Bursary. The bursary was established by colleagues and board members of RESOLVE Manitoba to acknowledge the contribution of Carolynne Boivin, Past President and founding member of the Prairieaction Foundation (PAF), in supporting research for the elimination of family violence. This endowed fund is used to assist honours and graduate students, enrolled at the University of Manitoba, who conduct research in the area of family and interpersonal violence. Over the years this fund has grown substantially, and last year there were three successful applicants who received funds from this bursary. A committee of former PAF members and community service providers review applications, then select the successful applicants. To learn more about the bursary—either to contribute to the fund or to apply for the bursary—contact Jane Ursel, Director of RESOLVE at [Jane.Ursel@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Jane.Ursel@umanitoba.ca). ☞

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*~ Dr. Jane Ursel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."*  
 The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994

Agreement# 40063171

## Women at Risk: Research and Response



*by Kathy Levine and Jocelyn Proulx, University of Manitoba,  
 and Rick Rennpferd, Opportunities for Independence Inc.*

**S**ince 1983, Opportunities for Independence Inc. (OFI) has offered services to adults and youth with intellectual disabilities who have been, or are at



a variety of life circumstances that include experiences of violence and abuse, sexual exploitation, addictions, housing issues, poverty, and mental health issues. According

risk of, involvement with the justice system. Services include residential support homes, therapeutic services, and life and employment skills training. With use of a client-centred approach, programs respond to individual client needs and capacities.

In the recent past the majority of OFI clients have been men. However, in the past decade the organization has seen an increase in the numbers of women who access their services. This trend is in line with reports that women represent the most rapid population growth in prison, and that many of these women have intellectual disabilities (Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, 2003). In response, OFI has developed a program for women at risk. Grounded in a feminist perspective, this program seeks to empower women through use of their strengths in order to help them develop a positive self-concept, gain a sense of personal control and agency in their lives, and to become more engaged in the community. The belief is that these factors will lead to better judgments and decisions, and thus less involvement with the law (Lindsay, et al., 2004).

Women who access this program present with

to literature, individuals with intellectual disabilities manifest such behaviour challenges as self-injury, aggression, socially inappropriate behaviour, noncompliance, and social withdrawal—all which increase their risk of involvement with the law. These behaviours have also been observed in many of the women who access services at OFI. Programs that manage anger, healthy sexuality, relationship skills, self-image, nutrition, and life and recreational skills are intended to address some of these issues. As with all OFI programs, the women's program is culturally sensitive, and elders are available for traditional counselling. Sharing circles and sweat lodges are also available on a regular basis. Given that a large

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## A Unified Voice on Violence Against Women: An Overview of the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses



by Lise Martin, Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses

### Background

In 2009, provincial and territorial shelter associations began to give shape to the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters & Transition Houses (CNWSTH). Until then there was simply no National forum in which the leaders and members of these organizations could share ideas and resources and innovate. The Network was incorporated as a charitable organization in December 2012, and hired its first executive director in April 2013.



Lise Martin

In these first two years the Network has operated on a minimal budget while establishing some of the important foundational pieces, and securing its financial stability. The Network's main areas of activity are centred on research and policy, knowledge exchange, and public education. We have a small secretariat in Ottawa with a staff of two! This, however, has not stopped us from working and engaging with partners in all areas of the country.

### Blueprint for Canada's National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Girls

Upon the release of our paper, *The Case for a National Action Plan on Violence against Women* in October 2013, the Network worked with a number of partners to develop a blueprint for Canada's National Action Plan (NAP) on Violence against Women and Girls. Currently, Canada has no comprehensive national plan or strategy to deal with violence against women. Without a plan, responses are largely fragmented, and services often inaccessible. Over 20 organizations that represent the violence against women sector collaboratively developed this blueprint, which outlines what Canada's NAP needs to cover, and how it should be developed and implemented. In the lead up to the 2015 Federal election, we will ask all Federal parties to commit to the creation of a

National Action Plan on Violence Against Women, and to make this blueprint its starting point.

We invite organizations to endorse our blueprint by sending an e-mail with the name of your organization, contact name, and an e-mail address to [info@endvaw.ca](mailto:info@endvaw.ca), with **Blueprint** in the subject line. Endorsement of the blueprint means that you are in agreement that Canada needs a NAP on violence against women, and that you endorse this blueprint as a starting point.

### Shelter Voices

With responses from shelters that represent all provinces and territories, Shelter Voices seeks to amplify voices of shelter workers, and the women and children they serve. For far too long the voices of these women have not been at the forefront. Results of our annual shelter survey are presented in this publication, which provides a snapshot of one day for shelter organizations in Canada. From the 2015 survey—which had 231 shelter responses—111 women and 66 children were admitted to the shelter on one day. We also know that 294 women and 215 children had to be turned away on that same day. As well, shelters provide much more than a safe place to stay; in one day these 231 shelters provided their services to 3,781 women and 2,508 children.

### Sheltersafe.ca

The Network will proudly launch this new program in early June. The primary purpose of **sheltersafe.ca** is to help women who seek safety from abuse to connect to the helplines of their local shelter as quickly and simply as possible. In the absence of a national crisis phone line, women can go to **sheltersafe.ca** any time of the day or night, in any part of the country, and with one click connect to help in their neighbour-

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## Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

In the last issue I indicated that I would be one of a number of Canadians to participate in the *International Visitor Leadership Program* sponsored by the American State Department. This was an exciting whirlwind trip to Washington D.C., Tucson, Arizona, and Seattle, Washington. There were eight Canadians, and one of the best parts of this trip was getting to know the seven other women who work to reduce violence against women. One of our fellow travelers, **Lise Martin**, Director of the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses based in Ottawa, has contributed to our newsletter this issue. In addition, from west to east we traveled with **Jasvir Gill** (John Howard Society); **Caitlin Scarpelli** (Atira Women's Resource Society), from Vancouver; **Diane Redsky** (Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata), from Winnipeg; **Roberta Wesley** (Ontario Native Women's Association), from Constance Lake, Ontario; **Isabelle Paille** (Quebec Native

Women Inc.), from Montreal; and **Mary Ellen Henderson–Martin** (St. John Police, Victim Services), from New Brunswick. Despite snow storms in D.C. and a few delays we met with representatives from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the National Coalition for the Homeless, in Washington D.C. In Tucson we met with the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Police, Victim Services, and the Tribal Court, and in Seattle we met with the Domestic Violence Unit of the Seattle Police, and the Native American Law Centre at the University of Washington School of Law. While this is not a comprehensive list of all of our meetings it gives you an idea of the breadth of the issues covered. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet with people across North America addressing the same issues, sharing their experiences, as we all seek solutions to violence and abuse. ☘

### Introducing Our Steering Committee Members

#### *Suhad Bisharat*

by Jocelyn Proulx



Suhad Bisharat

For 29 years, **Suhad Bisharat** has worked to help people deal with violence and oppression. Over those years she has served as the Director of the Immigrant Women's Centre, the Organizational Coordinator at Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, and the Director of Manitoba Anti-Poverty Organization. In 2001, Suhad became Executive Director of The Laurel Centre and within that position in 2010, added the Men's Resource Centre as one of the programs available at the Laurel Centre. Under her leadership both centres provide a variety of programs to women and men who have been affected by childhood sexual abuse and related impacts. Through her efforts, Winnipeg has the only Canadian shelter for men who leave violent home situations. In addition to her work at the Laurel Centre, Suhad has co-chaired the Family Violence Prevention Consortium of Manitoba and the Manitoba Community Action

Program for Children. She is a past President and current board member of NEEDS, an organization that works with immigrant and refugee youth. Holding degrees in accounting, business administration, and non-profit management has not only made her a successful administrator, but also contributed to her considerable experience in management and financial training for non-profit organizations. In 2008 she co-authored *Lighting the Road to Success: A Handbook for Non-Profit Executive Directors*. Suhad places great value in evidence-based programming and therefore has been involved in a number of research projects with Jocelyn Proulx from RESOLVE, including developing a system for assessing improvements in clients and developing and evaluating a program model for the male childhood sexual abuse program delivered at the Men's Resource Centre. She has also served on the RESOLVE Steering Committee since 2008, and on the Regional Council and Partnership Boards since 2010. ☘

## Saskatchewan Update

### *Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence: SSHRC/CURAs Project Update*



by Ann Bishop

**T**he Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council/Community–University Research Alliances (SSHRC/CURAs) project’s research team was very busy over Summer and Fall 2014, and into 2015. Over this time interviews (that had taken place the previous 12 months) were transcribed, and the data analysed. Global Information System maps were finalized in many instances, though this remains an ongoing process as more data is gathered and dissemination needs of the researchers evolve.

Last June’s team meeting discussed use of grounded theory as the next step in the project. A suggestion was made to use the term Disheartened in the core category of the grounded theory data analysis. While many services providers are disheartened, many team members felt that Frustration would be a more positive category name, since the word implies that providers have not given up. Resistance was also suggested, as was Ineffective, and Resilience. A key decision at the meeting was to conduct focus groups in selected rural and northern communities, and that these focus groups would take place over the summer and into the fall.

At the end of 2014, data transcription, cleaning, and coding for the interviews was, for the most part, completed and analysis is now underway. By the end of the year, researchers made many presentations, often using the maps generated from the environmental scans completed early in the project.

Focus groups in all regions are now complete, with the exception of one in the Northwest Territories, where researchers will travel to what is one of the most violent communities in Canada. They hope to have a focus group made up of elders from that community. As well, **Pertice Moffitt** plans to interview a priest who has lived in this community for some time.

Alberta conducted three focus groups in two communities—two rural and one northern. Data from the first focus group has been transcribed, cleaned and analysed; second and third focus group



Ann Bishop

data is being cleaned. The Alberta team also uses narrative inquiry for their analyses. Saskatchewan conducted two focus groups—one rural and one northern. Transcripts from their focus groups have been transcribed and cleaned, and analysis is well underway. The Saskatchewan team hopes to do an in-depth case study this summer, likely of the aforementioned northern community.

Manitoba conducted three rural and two northern focus groups. The rural focus groups have been transcribed and analysis has begun; transcription and cleaning for the early February northern focus group is underway. After one or two more interviews the team will complete transcription, clean up, and analysis.

**Darlene Juschka** developed a “template” for the narrative inquiry that will be used by all regions. While this template is not definitive, it is a good guideline for the regions to follow. Understanding that each region has differences, the teams need to have some similarities in each regions’ analyses in order to make it easier to write the final narrative for the project. One thing that stands out from the data the teams have collected is how similar the issues are across regions.

Each region will present its findings at the next CURA team meeting scheduled for June 26, 2015, in Regina. As well, all four regional teams plan to present at *RESOLVE Research Day* in October. The Alberta team is in the process of manuscript development, and discussions are underway for other journal articles. This team may also write a book that will encompass the whole project.

All in all, the SSHRC/CURA research team is on schedule to complete their work on time and within budget. This year—2015–16—is the final year that the project is funded, but the team hopes to get a one year extension from SSHRC to continue dissemination of results and conduct extensive knowledge transfer of its findings, possibly including that book! ❧

## Alberta Update

### *Alberta Council of Women's Shelters Second-Stage Shelter Project: Transitioning from Domestic Violence to Stability*



by *Jordana Linder*

**Note:** The original report was prepared by **Jan Reimer**, Executive Director, Alberta Council of Women's Shelters.

**W**ith sixteen of its member organizations, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters engaged in the Second-stage Shelter Project to collectively develop strategies to promote common understanding of and support for second-stage shelters in Alberta. Second-stage shelters provide safe, transitional housing for six months or more, in order to give a woman the necessary time to begin healing from an abusive relationship, to find counseling, as well as a job or educational opportunity. They provide wrap-around services and a safe home for a woman and her children (Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, 2012).

At this time there are 12 second-stage shelters across Alberta, and the need for their services greatly exceeds available resources. In 2013–2014, 611 women and children were admitted to second-stage shelters in Alberta, with 1,096 turned away due to lack of capacity. This is a gross underestimate of the need, as women's emergency shelters do not refer women to second stage when they know there is no chance of them getting in. Further, of the 12 second-stage shelters in Alberta, only two receive Provincial funding for programming, while the remaining shelters totally rely on fundraising and rent in order to sustain service delivery and building operations. For more than 30 years two second-stage shelters in Alberta have remained as Government of Alberta "pilot" projects despite recommendations from the Premier's Roundtable on Family Violence, the women's shelter program review (2006), and the *Family Violence Hurts Everyone Domestic Violence Strategy*. In one way or another, each of these reports spoke to the importance of women and children having access to a continuum of safe housing options with wrap-around supports and the importance of research and evaluation of interventions and promising practices. To that end, with funding from the Canadian Women's Foundation, the Second Stage Project was initiated.

The aims of this project were to:

- 1) Develop key messages necessary to support second stage shelter funding;
- 2) Support collective public education and

awareness efforts;

3) Develop appropriate terminology and service description;

4) Develop and adjust as necessary a logic model;

5) Gather data in accordance with the logic model parameters;

6) Review data aggregated by ACWS and provide advice with respect to data collection, analysis and reporting based on these data; and,

7) Support applications for funding on behalf of Alberta's second-stage shelters.

Between August 2013, and June 2014, eleven organizations gathered information about women and children who resided in Alberta Second-stage Shelters. Over a period of 11 months the shelters recorded a total of 354 admissions, which represented 349 individual women and 571 child admissions.

Highlights of the findings from the data analysis will be presented in Part 2 of this report in the September 2015 RESOLVE newsletter. ☘



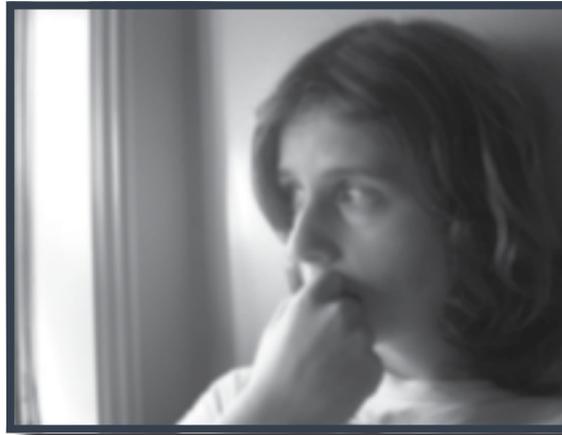
*Jan Reimer*

*Treatment Programs...* continued from Page 1

proportion of women who are involved with the justice system are Aboriginal (Brzozowski, Taylor-Butts, & Johnson, 2006; Correctional Services Canada, 2013), OFI's cultural sensitivity is further evidence of responsiveness to individual client need.

The role of gender and gender-based analyses specific to intellectual disability and criminal justice service provision remains largely unexplored, which is problematic given the increase of numbers of women in the correctional system. In hopes of expansion of their program for women, OFI has been working with **Kathy Levine** from the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba, and **Jocelyn Proulx** from RESOLVE Manitoba, on a research project intended to advise the direction and content of program expansions. Historically, service delivery models react to crisis situations and have failed to take into account that these women may have been readily identified at a significantly earlier period in time, and that because their needs were not met with an appropriate social service response, their risk of future criminal involvement was increased. Available information is based on male populations and it is likely that the risk factors for involvement with the law, the pattern of circumstances that leads to involvement with law, and thus the service and program needs differ for men and women.

This gap in research and knowledge has led to the joint project between OFI and the University of Manitoba. The researchers will gather data from Provincial program managers and staff who provide services to women with intellectual disabilities, women with intellectual disabilities who are in the federal prison system, as well as those who access services in the community,



and the staff of community agencies who provide services to women with intellectual disabilities. Literature reports that women with cognitive disabilities are likely to have earlier contact with the criminal justice system, have more incidence of contact with the law, and have more offenses, convictions, and sentences (Baldry, Dowse, & Clarence, 2011). Gathered information

will help to determine the factors and patterns of circumstances by which women with intellectual disabilities become involved in the justice system, and early risk indicators and how these can be assessed. The types of interventions and services that are required by this population to either prevent them from entry into the legal system or to prevent them from a return to the correctional system once they have been released will be examined, as will the existence of barriers to obtain these services.

Research results will be combined with a literature review to produce service recommendations for women with intellectual disabilities who have become involved with—or are at risk of—involvement with the law. These recommendations will be used to modify and/or add to current women's programs at OFI. This information can then provide the potential for program model development and subsequent evaluation. Thus, this partnership will contribute to the literature and development of recommendations for programs in Manitoba, and potentially other provinces and territories. ❧

*For references, contact Jocelyn Proulx at [Jocelyn.Proulx@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Jocelyn.Proulx@umanitoba.ca).*

*A Unified Voice...* continued from Page 2

(region).

The site is meant to be used by women who are victims of abuse, or by their families, friends, colleagues and/or employers, who are often in a situation of urgency and distress when looking for this information.

**Practice Exchange Project (PEP)**

The PEP will make it easier for women's shelters across Canada to share, develop, and implement successful shelter practices. We are developing a set of tools to help shelters create shareable practice guides, along with a framework and a manual for reviewing, implementing and discussing these practices. ❧

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



### RESOLVE AWARD

The RESOLVE Regional Council and our three Provincial Steering Committees are pleased to announce the RESOLVE AWARD that will be given annually to acknowledge the contributions made by service providers and researchers who work in the field of domestic/interpersonal violence. An award will be given to these unsung heroes of our community in each prairie province. Nominees can be members of our steering committees, or any member of our community who has made an outstanding contribution to the support of peace and security in our homes and society. Award recipients will have their expenses paid to attend our Research Day, at which the three provincial RESOLVE awards will be given. Contact a member of your provincial Steering Committee to get more information on how to nominate a local hero you have in mind, or check our RESOLVE website at [umanitoba.ca/resolve](http://umanitoba.ca/resolve) (under the category RESOLVE News). ☚

### Shelter Voices Online Launch

As of April 22, Shelter Voices has launched online across Canada in English and French via email, Facebook and Twitter with the tags [#sheltervoices](https://twitter.com/sheltervoices) and [#maisonxpriment](https://twitter.com/maisonxpriment). Our stakeholders are invited to amplify the launch messages by sharing a version of our launch tweet: "Today @endvaw releases the [#ShelterVoices](https://twitter.com/ShelterVoices) 2015 report on the state of women's shelters in [#Canada](https://twitter.com/Canada). Share widely! [bit.ly/1Oemh8P](http://bit.ly/1Oemh8P) [#VAW](https://twitter.com/VAW)" Shelters and allies are encouraged to use Shelter Voices to help start conversations in their own communities on the importance of shelters and the need for further support.

"It's great that there's been increasing recognition of the prevalence of violence against women in Canadian society," says Lise Martin, Executive Director of the CNWSTH. "But the flip side is that there simply are not enough resources to meet the demand for services."

Despite the resource crunch, Shelter Voices testimonies reflect the impact that shelters have on the lives of women and children fleeing abuse. "I thought I would never be able to speak my mind," says one woman via Shelter Voices. "Thanks to shelter staff I have my voice back." A child's voice puts it even more succinctly: "We are in a magical house."

**October 14 - 17, 2015 - 34th Annual Research and Treatment Conference** in Montréal, Québec. Sponsored by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. This conference will offer symposia, workshop presentations, poster sessions, discussion groups, and advanced clinics relating to issues in victim and perpetrator research and treatment. All sessions, with the exception of posters, have been approved for Continuing Education credits. Clinics are designed to provide participants with extensive training and skills enhancement. For more information refer to [www.atsa.com/conference](http://www.atsa.com/conference).

**October 22 - 23, 2015 - Research Day 2015: Intimate Partner Violence: Engaging Beyond the Survivor**, in Regina, Saskatchewan. Sponsored by the Prairieaction Foundation, RESOLVE is a triprovincial research network seeking solutions to violence and abuse. The call for papers, poster, and registration form are now on the conference website at [www2.uregina.ca/resolve/ResearchDay2015.html](http://www2.uregina.ca/resolve/ResearchDay2015.html).



Inspired by our healing wheel, conference topics may include physical, mental, spiritual, and/or emotional healing; abuse prevention programs; abuse in communities and families; community-based program implementation and evaluation; institutional healing (human rights conventions, civil/constitutional). If you have any questions or comments, please contact the conference facilitator, **Ann Bishop**, at **306-337-2511** or e-mail [ann.bishop@uregina.ca](mailto:ann.bishop@uregina.ca) and she will be pleased to help you. If you know of anyone who might be interested in presenting at or attending this conference, please pass along this information.

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Ceplis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



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## Prairieaction Foundation (PAF) Announcement & Call for Letters of Intent

The PAF is pleased to announce **Mia Dykstra** as our new Administrative Assistant. Welcome Mia!

This year PAF introduces a second call for Community Action, Research & Education (CARE) grants. If your organization or institution is interested in applying for a 2015 CARE grant, please note that the deadline to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) is **July 15, 2015**. For more information on the CARE grants, including whether or not your organization qualifies and how to apply, refer online to **[prairieaction.ca](http://prairieaction.ca)**.

### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."*  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994

Agreement# 40063171

## Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting: A Violence Prevention Program that Starts at Home!



by Christine Ateah



Image reprinted with permission from *Save the Children Sweden*  
[www.savethechildren.se](http://www.savethechildren.se)

**A**s research findings on the negative effects of physical punishment have grown exponentially, so has recognition of the personhood of children. Following the United Nations' (UN) 1989 adoption of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC), views of childhood are shifting on a global level. To date, 46 countries have abolished all physical punishment of children (Global Initiative, 2015). However, law reform alone is insufficient to shift attitudes and behaviours that have been established over generations. As countries increasingly move to abolish physical punishment, governments and civil society organizations are searching for ways to support parents in promoting children's healthy development. The *Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting* (PDEP) program was developed as a primary prevention program to reduce physical punishment of children. This program grew out of an academic-NGO partnership between the University of Manitoba and Save the Children, an international NGO that promotes children's rights. In 2007, Save the Children in Southeast Asia commissioned a book that integrates research findings and child rights principles. **Joan**

**Durrant**, Professor in Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba, first wrote a book for parents that describes a model of parent-child conflict resolution based on trust, attachment, communication and validating children's perspectives that can be applied in a wide range of situations. Interest in the book prompted requests for training in the approach. A facilitator training model was developed and a facilitator's manual was produced to support trainees in their delivery of the program to parents through community agencies, schools and health centres.

Facilitators are parent educators, NGO staff, teachers, child care workers and other professionals who work

*Positive Discipline...* continued on Page 6

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## Why Data Counts



by Jane Ursel

**R**ecently Cheryl Fraehlich, Research Associate at RESOLVE Manitoba, was invited to speak at a workshop—sponsored by The Institute for Feminist Legal Studies at Osgoode—titled *Supporting Women Charged*. Women’s organizations in Toronto were concerned about the apparent increase in women charged with domestic violence (D.V.) offences that resulted from pro–arrest policies in D.V. cases. Participants at this workshop were interested in the data presented in a paper that Cheryl and I authored that concerned the arrest rate of women that followed pro–arrest policies in Winnipeg. In the article “Arresting women: Pro-arrest policies, debates and developments” *Journal of Family Violence*, 29 (5), we addressed the concern with “dual arrests” (both man and woman are charged) that such policies can trigger. We demonstrated that although the arrest rate of women charged with D.V. offences increased after an aggressive pro–arrest policy was introduced, this rate was dramatically reduced when police were trained to identify primary aggressors in a domestic assault incident. Cheryl came home with the observation that the workshop participants noted the value of having such data sets available for analysis.

While police, prosecutors, and correctional departments keep data, there are limited opportunities for the public to access these statistics. One clear opportunity is the excellent publication on domestic violence that comes from Statistics Canada once every three years. While this data is used extensively by practitioners, researchers, and students, it is highly aggregated and cannot answer all of the questions people in a particular community might have. These questions can best be addressed at the local level through access to local data.

In Manitoba, RESOLVE has had a uniquely positive relationship with the Department of Justice that has spanned 25 years. We have collected data on characteristics of the victim

and the accused, as well as charges and court outcomes from the files of the D.V. Unit prosecutors in Winnipeg. Because we deal with a very large data set we can maintain anonymity of the individuals and families involved. Longitudinal data allows us to identify trends and examine the before and after effects of policy changes. This data serves the needs and interests of the Manitoba Department of Justice, of prosecutors, practitioners, researchers, and family members affected by domestic violence. For example, a number of years ago Victim Services approached us to request that we analyse the child abuse data we collect. They wanted to know what the conviction rate was for cases of child sexual abuse, and what factors affected the conviction rate. They wanted to be able to provide this information to parents of an abused child so that the parents could make an informed decision. Parents wanted to do what was in the best interests of their child. Was the possibility of conviction sufficiently high to merit proceeding with a prosecution and the stress that would entail for the child (witness)? These are the types of questions that are deeply meaningful to family members and to the community—the types of questions that can only be answered locally.

This data counts because it can inform policy, improve interventions, and affect families caught in the destructive dynamic of family violence. Over the years we have been able to demonstrate—with hard numbers—the need for more prosecutors, an expansion of treatment programs, the efficacy of particular policies and the impact of legislative change. This partnership between the University (RESOLVE) and the Manitoba Department of Justice has served our community well over the years. There would be great benefit for other provincial departments of justice to explore a similar relationship with their local universities. ☘

## Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

**R**ESOLVE Manitoba is pleased to announce our 2015 Carolynne Boivin bursary recipients.

Due to the generous donation from **Carolynne and Dan Boivin**, we can grant three awards this year. Our Ph.D. Award recipient is **Miriam Gonzalez**, who is evaluating the effects of Level 2 Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) on parental use of physical punishment and other parental responses. Findings from this study will provide important information for practitioners and will contribute to the literature on family violence.



*Miriam Gonzalez*

Our Masters recipient is **Jacob Simoens**. Jacob will assess the efficacy of the Salvation Army's diversion program, Choose 2 Change, for persons arrested for domestic violence offenses. The specialized Crown attorneys in Winnipeg's Domestic Violence Unit select



*Jacob Simoens*

a limited number of low risk offenders who are on remand until they complete the treatment program. If the accused persons attend, participate, and complete the program they will have their charges stayed.

Jacob's findings will be of great value to practitioners and will also contribute to a growing literature on the efficacy of men's treatment programs.

*Boivin Bursary recipients...continued on Page 7*

### Introducing Our Steering Committee Members

#### **JOAN DURRANT**

by Christine Ateah



*Joan Durrant*

**Dr. Joan Durrant**, Professor of Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba, has dedicated her professional, and much of her personal, life to protecting children from physical and emotional punishment while in the care of their parents or other caregivers. Over the past 25 years she has set out to change the beliefs that underlie 'everyday' violence against children around the world. Her approach to the issue is one of education and support. She educates parents, policy makers, politicians, and professionals about how children develop and the types of guidance that help children learn and understand. Joan has received international recognition for her leadership in this area. Based on her years of research, in partnership with a global NGO (Save the Children), she developed the **Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting** program highlighted in this month's newsletter. She also co-authored the **Joint Statement on Physical**

**Punishment of Children and Youth**, which brought the issue to the attention of professional organizations across Canada; more than 500 have endorsed it to date. In recognition of her work on the Joint Statement, Joan was awarded the Ted Freeman Award for Innovation in Education by the Ontario Hospital Association. Other awards that Joan has received include the Children's Rights Supporter Award, Canadian Coalition for Children's Rights (2014); Human Rights Commitment Award, Manitoba Human Rights Commission (2013); Health Promotion and Innovation Award of Excellence, Canadian Institute of Child Health (2012); Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, Government of Canada (2012); "Humanitarian of the Year Award" Canadian Red Cross, Manitoba Chapter (2011); YWCA Woman of Distinction Award, Education and Mentorship Category (2011); and Ian Logan Memorial Award for Leadership in Child Abuse Prevention, Manitoba Provincial Advisory Committee on Child Abuse (2010). ❧

## Saskatchewan Update

*Diane Delaney: RESOLVE Saskatchewan Award Winner*



*by Diane Delaney and Ann Bishop*

**D**iane Delaney recently left RESOLVE Saskatchewan after serving as community representative to RESOLVE's Regional Council and the Partnership Board. During her tenure on the RESOLVE Saskatchewan Steering Committee she was Provincial Coordinator of the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS). Her time at PATHS offered many opportunities for her to address the social problems that women who have experienced violence face. She is not only an excellent resource for community services, but has traveled to rural and northern communities, and represents Saskatchewan as she travels. As a result, Diane is very familiar with the issues that women in these communities face. She has facilitated the creation of spaces for a public voice for the shelter movement in Saskatchewan, and has provided leadership through training for shelter workers on such topics as the history and impact of colonization, risk assessment, and legal advocacy.

Through her experience in various capacities in shelters in Ontario, Diane secured employment as Executive Director of SOFIA House—a Regina second-stage shelter—shortly after her arrival in Saskatchewan in 1999. She moved from that position to become Manager of the Isabel Johnson Shelter in Regina, and at the same time managed the Big Sisters program. In January 2005, she began her tenure as the Coordinator of PATHS, a job that she held for the next ten years. This time was also a period when she became involved with RESOLVE.

Diane told us that those ten years felt like the most intensely productive of her career, where she could use her past experience and education. She has a keen desire to understand the many and varied social issues that keep women from leading lives free from violence. This curiosity—combined with a desire for change—resulted in a significant contribution to community-based research in the areas of income security,

affordable housing, prostitution, gender and sexual identity issues in sheltering, the needs of immigrant women, and social work intervention strategies in sheltering. Diane's work went beyond research, and provided the necessary data for successful advocacy efforts on behalf of women who experience violence. Active in the anti-poverty movement, she provided leadership when the retrenchment of income supports for poor people in Saskatchewan was imminent. Her social activism in housing issues resulted in an abatement of the conversion of affordable housing into condominiums. Diane was involved in the international discourse on sheltering, including providing input into a United Nations document on sheltering practices. Nationally, Diane was a member of the founding board and executive of the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses.

Toward the end of her tenure at PATHS, she produced an

in depth and unique analysis of the root causes of violence made possible through a grant from the Prairieaction Foundation. She continues to work on this project, enhancing her research and presenting at international conferences. As well, she continues in her capacity as community lead and co-principal investigator on a SSHRC/CURA project entitled *Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence*, which examines the needs of women who have experienced violence in rural and isolated areas.

Diane resigned from PATHS and the RESOLVE Saskatchewan Steering Committee in Fall 2015, and now lives in Manitoba where she joined her husband, who moved to Winnipeg for a position at the University of Manitoba. Her depth of knowledge, insight, and commitment to helping women and children in difficult circumstances is second to none. We are fortunate we have been able to continue our relationship with Diane through the SSHRC/CURA project. ❧



*Diane Delaney*

## Alberta Update

### Alberta Council of Women's Shelters Second-Stage Shelter Project: Transitioning from Domestic Violence to Stability, PART 2



by Jordana Linder

Original report prepared by Jan Reimer, Executive Director, Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

**W**ith sixteen of its member organizations, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters engaged in a Second-stage Shelter Project to collectively develop strategies to promote common understanding of and support for second-stage shelters in Alberta.

#### DATA ANALYSIS HIGHLIGHTS

Between August 2013, and June 2014, eleven organizations gathered information about women and children who resided in Alberta Second-stage Shelters. Over a period of 11 months shelters recorded a total of 354 admissions, which represents 349 individual women and 571 child admissions.

#### Characteristics of Women and Children in Second-Stage Shelters

- Cultural background and immigration status of women in second-stage shelters reflects the background of women in urban emergency women's shelters in Alberta, where the proportion of the Aboriginal population is lower and the proportion of the immigrant population is higher.
- The average age of women in second-stage shelters is the same as that of women in Alberta emergency women's shelters, with the majority of women falling in the 25 to 40 age bracket.
- Over 80% of the women were admitted to the shelter with children (292 out of 354). This is higher than about two-thirds of women with children in emergency shelters.
- Women who access second-stage shelters may experience more challenges with their financial or employment situation than women in emergency shelters.
- About half of the women in second-stage shelter for whom this information was available had either mental or physical health concerns or addictions or a combination of those concerns.

#### Abuse History

- Seventy seven percent of women identified at least one type of abuse that they experienced immediately prior to their admission to the shelter.



- Women in second-stage shelters are more likely to experience physical abuse than women in emergency shelters.
- Almost a third of the children either witnessed the abuse of their mother or experienced abuse or neglect themselves.
- Women in second-stage shelters are at higher risk for femicide than women in emergency shelters.

#### Services and Service Linkages

- On average the women stayed in second-stage shelters for about 6 months.
- The second-stage shelter services appear to be more varied than those in emergency shelters, including such services as programming for children, financial support, housing support and health services.
- Upon conclusion of their stay in the second-stage shelters almost 70% of the received referrals to various community services.
- By comparison to emergency shelters second-stage shelter referrals are more likely to include housing and less likely to include referrals to other shelters.

#### Situation at Shelter Discharge

- Over the course of nine months second-stage shelters recorded 334 admissions and 224 discharges.
- At the time of discharge about half of the women were going to live on their own—with or without their children (49%). Others were going to live with their family or friends (19%), or return to the abuser (5%). The remaining women were either unsure or their living situation at discharge was not specified.
- By comparison, in an Alberta Council of Women's Shelter study, over half of the women in emergency shelters returned to the abusive partner—42% of them because of lack of affordable housing and 45% because of the lack of money.

This study provided an initial opportunity to aggregate shelter data, and continued data collection is needed to improve data collection accuracy and completeness. Regular and expanded reporting and analysis will be used to support future program development efforts and shelter advocacy efforts on behalf of women. ❧

*Positive Discipline...* continued from Page 1

directly with families. They deliver the program in eight two-hour sessions, plus a follow-up session, typically with groups of ten to 17 parents. PDEP is now being implemented in at least 30 countries, with five Master Trainers responsible for ongoing development of the parent and facilitator training programs. PDEP was designed as a universal primary violence prevention program. The approach teaches and builds relationships that can be applied in any family, although some families may need additional support. A standard program is appropriate for parents who are comfortable reading and writing English. Delivery adaptations have been developed for newcomers and parents with low literacy. Parents are provided with a framework to problem solve, which can be applied in a wide range of 'everyday' conflicts. The framework was designed to help parents move from external control strategies (e.g. physical punishment, time-out, removal of privileges) to mentorship and conflict resolution. Designed to capture the fundamental principles of caregiving that promote developmental health throughout childhood and adolescence, the PDEP framework consists of five components:

- 1) *focusing on long-term goals;*
- 2) *creating a learning environment in which children feel physically and emotionally safe ("warmth");*
- 3) *clearly communicating the information children need in order to learn ("structure");*
- 4) *understanding children's perspectives across the developmental trajectory; and*
- 5) *approaching discipline as problem-solving rather than punishment.*

The program takes parents through these components in sequence, with each building on the previous ones.

A series of interactive exercises helps parents understand the rationale for the approach, gain insight into their children's thinking, and generate constructive non-violent solutions on their own. Four of the eight sessions take parents through the typical developmental pathway, from birth to adolescence, with a focus on developmental changes across the age span, such as attachment, mastery motivation, and drive for autonomy. Brain development is emphasized to help parents understand the impact of stress and aggression, and how their own emotional regulation can facilitate the growth of self-regulation in their children.

PDEP also helps parents understand fundamental principles of children's rights, including the right to explain

their perspectives and to have them heard. One of its primary aims is to help parents understand children's perspectives in everyday conflicts, and gradually become comfortable with listening to their children rather than reacting with power assertion. PDEP aims to reorient parents from relationships with their children that are based on power and control to relationships based on cooperation, reciprocity and mutual respect. Early in the program, parents work in small groups on exercises aimed to normalize parenting stress, parent-child conflict, and stress-based reactions. As the program proceeds, parents continue to engage in small group activities designed to re-frame children's behaviour from 'bad' to 'developmentally normative' and to help parents recognize their own strengths and capacities. Eventually parents brainstorm problem-solving responses to conflict using the PDEP framework.

Pre- and post-program questionnaires are completed at the parent program and facilitator training levels. Findings from a sample of 321 parents who participated in the program in 14 sites across Canada were published in *The Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health* (Durrant et al., 2014). They indicate that PDEP has promise as a violence prevention program. For example, following their participation, 82% of parents believed that they could now solve most of their parenting challenges; 84% believed that PDEP will help them use less physical punishment; and more than 90% believed more strongly that parents should not use physical punishment, and that PDEP will help them control their anger, understand their children's feelings and build stronger relationships with their children. A systematic, multi-method impact assessment is planned over the next five years with methodology appropriate to prevention-focused, community-based programming.

Information about the program is available on the PDEP website at [www.PositiveDisciplineEveryDay.com](http://www.PositiveDisciplineEveryDay.com), and on the website of the program's Canadian partner, the Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs (FRP Canada) at [www.frp.ca](http://www.frp.ca). The Parent Book and a four-page primer on the program can be downloaded for free at either of these sites. ❁

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



*Boivin Bursary recipients...continued from Page 3*



*Nicole Leeson*

Our Boivin Bursary Honours student recipient is **Nicole Leeson**. Nicole has been working at RESOLVE on a number of projects for the last two years, in addition to working as a volunteer at the Klinik Community Health Centre Sexual Assault Crisis Program. Nicole's honours' thesis will draw on Manitoba data from the Rural and Northern study, led by Mary Hampton in Saskatchewan.

RESOLVE would like to congratulate the 2015 recipients. We are so pleased to have a bursary available to support the next generation of researchers and practitioners committed to ending violence and abuse. ☘



**October 22 - 23, 2015 - Research Day 2015: Intimate Partner Violence: Engaging Beyond the Survivor**, in Regina, Saskatchewan. Sponsored by the Prairieaction Foundation, RESOLVE is a triprovincial research network seeking solutions to violence and abuse.

Inspired by our healing wheel, conference topics may include physical, mental, spiritual, and/or emotional healing; abuse prevention programs; abuse in communities and families; community-based program implementation and evaluation; institutional healing (human rights conventions, civil/constitutional). If you have any questions or comments, please contact the conference facilitator, **Ann Bishop**, at **306-337-2511** or e-mail [ann.bishop@uregina.ca](mailto:ann.bishop@uregina.ca) and she will be pleased to help you. If you know of

anyone who might be interested in presenting at or attending this conference, please pass along this information.

**October 14 - 17, 2015 - 34th Annual Research and Treatment Conference** in Montréal, Québec. Sponsored by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. This conference will offer symposia, workshop presentations, poster sessions, discussion groups, and advanced clinics relating to issues in victim and perpetrator research and treatment. All sessions, with the exception of posters, have been approved for Continuing Education credits. Clinics are designed to provide participants with extensive training and skills enhancement. For more information refer to [www.atsa.com/conference](http://www.atsa.com/conference).

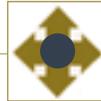
**November 9 - 10, 2015 - 15th Annual Family Violence Conference** in Edmonton, Alberta. Sponsored by the 2015 Diverse Voices Family Violence planning committee. This conference considers the impact of Family Violence across generations and cultures. Some of the topics speakers will address includes community response; self-care; ethno cultural, etc. For more information refer to [www.diverse-voices.com](http://www.diverse-voices.com).

**October 1 - 31, 2015 - Women's History Month in Canada.** **This is** an opportunity for Canadians to educate themselves about women's and girls' valuable contributions to our country's history—and to the quality of our lives in the 21st century. For more information refer to [www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/whm-mhf/index-eng.html](http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/whm-mhf/index-eng.html).

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Web site: [www.prairieaction.ca](http://www.prairieaction.ca)

## Prairieaction Foundation (PAF) Call for Letters of Intent

Prairieaction Foundation is calling for Letters of Intent (LOI) to conduct research that support solutions to violence and abuse. This focus of the Community, Action, Research & Education (CARE) grant program furthers Prairieaction Foundation's goal to support community-based research into solutions to violence and abuse. The Program funds qualifying charitable organizations for research projects that identify potential strategies, models and methods to ultimately eliminate the issues and impact of family violence and abuse. At Prairieaction Foundation, we believe that results-oriented research can reduce or prevent violence and abuse in our communities by telling us how effective laws and policies, well-designed programs and well resourced community responses can make a difference in the lives of families and in our community.

If your organization or institution is interested in applying for a CARE Grant, or for more information, please visit our website [www.prairieaction.ca](http://www.prairieaction.ca). ☞

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*~ Dr. Jane Ursel ~  
Director (RESOLVE)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."*  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994

Agreement# 40063171

## **"You're Not Alone": Calgary Counselling Centre's Therapy Groups for Women Abused by Intimate Partners**



by Leslie M. Tutty and Robbie Babins-Wagner

*"I realized that what happened to me happens to others as well. What I experienced is not acceptable."*

**T**he quote above is from a woman who was a member of the *You're Not Alone* (YNA) group offered by the Calgary Counselling Centre (CCC). Women whose partners abuse them are often isolated and may not know what types of assistance are most helpful. Group intervention is commonly offered to intimate partner violence (IPV) victims to address such clinical issues as depression, anxiety, and trauma that often stem from being abused by an intimate partner and to give women opportunities to learn more about the nature of partner violence and make choices about their futures.

Calgary Counselling is a community-based agency that has provided family violence programs and services since 1981. Programs include the *Responsible Choices for Men* program for men who use physical or psychological violence and control tactics in intimate relationships, and *Responsible Choices for Women* for women deemed to be the primary abusers.

First offered in 1986, You're Not Alone groups for women abused by intimate partners are conducted over 14 weeks in weekly two-hour sessions. Groups include six-to-twelve women, with an unstructured psychotherapeutic and a structured psycho-educational component. The interventions are informed by a narrative approach by Australian family therapist **Alan Jenkins** and, more recently, **Allan Wade's** theories of resistance to violence. Groups are facilitated by a female-male team, with at least one leader a senior therapist experienced with domestic violence and group work. A mixed

gender team models conflict negotiation between men and women, and confronts stereotypes about gender roles.

A recent evaluation of the groups, now published in the *Journal of Family Violence*, examined characteristics of women in the YNA groups, compared those who completed the groups to those who did not, and looked at how well the completers fared on a number of mental health variables before and after group.

Women who started the YNA group all self-reported clinically significant mental health concerns, depression, and self-esteem. Trauma symptoms and anxiety were similarly concerning, although measures used have no clinical cut-off scores. Of the women who started the You're Not Alone group, a little more than half (214 or 56.5%) finished. Women with lower income and with a psychiatric history were less likely to complete, as were women with higher depression, clinical stress, and mental health symptoms.

*You're Not Alone...* continued on Page 6

### *Inside this issue...*

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## RESOLVE Awards



by Jane Ursel



From left: **Andrea Silverstone** & **Nicole Letourneau**



From left: **Diane Delaney** & **Karen Wood**



From left: **Suhad Bisharat** & **Jane Ursel**

**T**his year, at Research Day in Regina, we introduced the RESOLVE Award. 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. The inspiration for this award came from our close working relationship with services providers in the field of violence and abuse. In each of our prairie provinces we have a wide range of community agencies—from shelters and second stage programs to counselling services and advocacy. Work in this field is difficult, typically involving long hours and a very unique skill set; compassion for clients, persistence in the pursuit of funding, and a willingness to speak out and be counted when circumstances put individuals and families at risk.

Many of the staff of these agencies are members of our Steering Committees, and give of their very valuable and 'in demand' time to encourage research that is program and policy specific. They are committed to the growth and development

of services in their field and see research as an important component of that development. Often program directors and service workers in the field of interpersonal violence are the unsung heroes in our community. We felt it was time to sing their praises and create an award that would acknowledge their outstanding contributions to our communities. Alberta's award recipient is **Andrea Silverstone**, Executive Director of Peer Support Services for Abused Women in Calgary, (see Page 5 for a brief biography). The Saskatchewan recipient is **Diane Delaney**, former Coordinator of the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services, in Saskatchewan, (see Page 4 of our September 2015 issue for a brief biography). Manitoba's award recipient is **Suhad Bisharat**, Executive Director of The Laurel Centre in Winnipeg (see Page 3 of our May 2015 newsletter for a brief biography). In addition to their remarkable work in our communities, all three recipients are active members of the RESOLVE Steering Committee in their province. ❀

## Manitoba Update: *Buying Sex is Not a Sport*



by Jane Ursel

On November 29, 2015, Winnipeg will host the Grey Cup. While many of us are planning parties or pulling out our long johns and down jackets for the day, a number of Government departments and NGOs are planning a public awareness campaign. Most people who attend large sporting events, like the Grey Cup, are only interested in that event. Unfortunately, however, human trafficking and sexual exploitation tend to become more common with the large influx of visitors (primarily men) in the host city. Law

enforcement agencies report a spike in the number of online adds and social media posts related to human trafficking in the weeks leading up to these events. To counteract this pattern the Manitoba Sporting Events Safety Working Group is launching a month long public awareness campaign: **Buying Sex is Not a Sport**. This initiative is aimed at helping victims of Human Trafficking, and others impacted by sexual exploitation in Manitoba.

*Buying Sex..* continued on Page 7

### Introducing Our Steering Committee Members

#### **Sharon Taylor**

by Pamela Mason



Sharon Taylor

Social justice is a way of life for **Sharon Taylor**, Executive Director, Wolseley Family Place, a well known family resource centre in west central Winnipeg. She has supported justice and inclusion for marginalized people; women, youth, children, and individuals who live with a variety of abilities and sexualities in all of her work. Sharon has sought to level the playing field through the provision of necessary resources and through the development of policies that recognize differing needs. She has also served as an able spokesperson for those who are not often given the opportunity to speak for themselves.

Sharon's commitment and compassion has been recognized by her peers, and she has been the recipient of many awards. Her awards include the 2009 Provincial Council of Women Award for Years of Community Service for Women, the 2010 Best Beautiful Women Award for Community Service, the 2011 Provincial Award of Distinction from the Manitoba Partners for Addictions Awareness, the 2012 Ruby Award and the 2012 Diamond

Jubilee Medal for work with women and children. In addition, Sharon has been nominated in 2000, 2006, 2014 for the YM/YWCA Women of Distinction Awards, for the 2011 Hero Award for Mental Health, and for the 2011 Mary Wolfe Award. In return, Sharon was the driving force behind the 2011 Community Heroes Award, which honoured community members who went above and beyond. Sharon has served on nearly a dozen coalitions and boards. She is sought after to provide presentations at conferences and meetings, to participate on advisory committees, contribute to think tanks, and sit at policy development tables across the country.

During her 18 years as Executive Director at Wolseley Family Place, Sharon has worked tirelessly to ensure equitable access to resources for families with small children, bridging the gap between existing services and community needs. She has advocated for prevention and harm reduction practices, the promotion of wellness and optimal development, cultural sensitivity, respect, empowerment, interdependence, and community development. Sharon's leadership has supported her team to provide a broad spectrum programs and services that holistically support each determinant of health, including medical, social, cultural, and familial factors. Winnipeg west central is a kinder and more supportive community as a result of Sharon's hard work and inspired leadership. ❧

## Saskatchewan Update: *RESOLVE Research Day*



by Ann Bishop

Once again RESOLVE Research Day was a great success. The conference theme was *Intimate Partner Violence: Engaging Beyond the Survivor*, and we saw 100 participants from the three prairie provinces enjoy 13 sessions, all interesting and informative. **Mary Hampton**, Academic Research Coordinator for RESOLVE Saskatchewan, did a great job leading the conference, and **Ann Bishop** and her graduate student volunteers had everything run smoothly.

Our keynote speakers were a hit with **Judge Marylynn Beaton** speaking about her experiences with Saskatchewan's Domestic Violence Court, and **Ms Roz Kelsey**, faculty member in Kinesiology and Health Studies at the University of Regina, spoke of her involvement with the *Man Up Against Violence* movement and her experiences with the young men in her faculty and across the University who are committed to doing their part in ending violence against women.



Judge Marylynn Beaton

There were several presentations about the SSHRC/CURA project entitled *Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence*. Other sessions dealt with a myriad of topics related to all types of violence against women and children.

**Elder Betty McKenna**, RESOLVE Saskatchewan's guiding elder, "womaned" our healing room again this year and Ann Bishop, conference organizer, said it was great to see people use the space. Participants came to de-stress, find a quiet moment, and talk about their conference experiences.

RESOLVE-Saskatchewan asks each presenter to provide their PowerPoint presentations, or other materials, which will then be posted on the conference website at [www2.uregina.ca/resolve/ResearchDay2015.html](http://www2.uregina.ca/resolve/ResearchDay2015.html). If you didn't make it to the conference, this might be a good way to learn more. ☘

### *Introducing Our Steering Committee Members*



Amy Balfour

**B**orn and raised in Regina, **Amy Balfour** has dedicated her time working to reduce victimization and harm to persons at risk, particularly youth. Amy graduated from the University of Regina in 2005, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Justice, and a Master of Arts degree in 2008. Her graduate work focused on youth involved in the sex trade, where she learned the complexities of trauma from those with whom she worked. Through Amy's work at the Paul Dojack Youth Centre, and then at the Ranch Ehrlo Society, she learned to admire the strength and perseverance of young people. Interpersonal violence, trauma, and abuse were just a few barriers children and youth presented while in care and in the community.

Amy has been employed at the Regina Police Service since 2009, and was recently promoted to management in 2015. When not at work or teaching at the University of Regina, she also volunteers her time to the University of Regina Research Ethics Board, and RESOLVE. As a Certified Law Enforcement Planner, a member of the International Association of the Law Enforcement Planners, the International Association of Crime

Analysts, and the Canadian Criminal Justice Association, Amy continues to be dedicated to the improvement of police practice through evidence-based research and analysis.

Her experience with youth and adults as offenders and victims has offered many opportunities to learn, grow, and support those in need. An avid animal lover, successful business owner, and wife, Amy looks forward to new challenges and opportunities while continuing to serve her community. ☘

## Alberta Update



by Nela Cosic

*"It is not incumbent upon you to complete the work, but neither are you at liberty to desist from it"*

*Rabbi Tarfon – 2nd century CE*

### Introducing Our Steering Committee Members

**R**ESOLVE Research Day 2015, themed *Intimate Partner Violence: Engaging Beyond the Survivor*, was a huge success! **Andrea Silverstone** was presented with the 2015 *Excellence in Community Service and Research Award* in recognition of her distinguished contribution to the creation of homes and communities safe from interpersonal violence and abuse.

Andrea is a registered social worker, with an interesting and unique academic background—she attended Lindenbaum College in Jerusalem and York University in Toronto. Through her extensive dedication and leadership in the domestic violence sector for over 15 years, she is clearly very passionate about her work and has a very impressive background in advocacy. The list of her individual achievements is extremely extensive; she simultaneously serves many different roles, all in effort to end violence and promote healthy relationships. As a highly respected community leader and manager of numerous agencies, she organizes a cooperative public response to family violence in Calgary and the surrounding area. Andrea regularly seeks new and interesting ways to raise awareness and educate communities about domestic violence and its associated issues. She strategically involves herself in many different organizations in order to disseminate this knowledge in the most effective way. Andrea has worked diligently to convey how domestic violence is not only an issue in itself, but is often the root cause of many other social problems, i.e., addictions, homelessness and sexual exploitation. Andrea has partnered with agencies and service providers of other sectors to create programs that support women who seek assistance for issues that have ultimately arisen from domestic violence.

Andrea currently holds many executive positions in various organizations and committees aimed at ending family violence. Along with serving as an active Steering Committee member for RESOLVE Alberta, she is also the Executive Director of Peer Support Services for

Abused Women (PSSAW), Co-Chair of the Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) and Shalom Bayit Coordinator at Jewish Family Service Calgary (JFSC). Andrea also runs a private practice, where she provides therapeutic support for individuals and families impacted by domestic violence. Through her private practice, she has been engaged in Governance and Strategic Planning for non-profit organizations, and the development of the Outreach Program at the Black Diamond Shelter. In addition, through her private practice work with FaithLink and as a research assistant at the University of Calgary, she has worked to support faith communities to address the issue of domestic violence. Her practice has also allowed her to be engaged in understanding the intersection of domestic and sexual violence, specifically through her work as a researcher for the Canadian Association for Sexual Assault Centres. Andrea has contributed, and continues to contribute, very significantly to RESOLVE–Alberta as a Steering Committee member. With RESOLVE, Andrea currently coordinates a research study to establish how the quality of services provided to those affected by abuse in the Jewish community can be improved. In addition to her current achievements, her past successes are also quite extensive—Assistant Direct of Steinhart Cayne Foundation, New York and Clinical Supervisor of Awo Taan Native Women's Shelter.

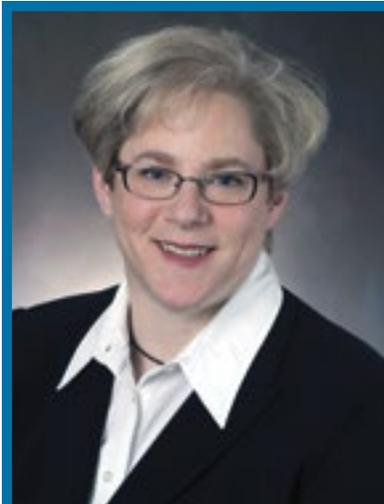
Andrea's commitment and engagement in non-profit organizations and committees reflects her strong belief in the strength of a collaborative, grassroots community approach to ending domestic violence and abuse. She believes that this is ultimately the most effective way to provide healing and hope to all those affected by this issue. In partnering with various service providers, committees, agencies, organizations and individual community members, Andrea works to raise public awareness and create a movement focused on supporting healthy relationships and preventing domestic violence and abuse. ☸



Andrea Silverstone

*You're Not Alone...* continued from Page 1

The 184 women who completed the YNA groups reported statistically significant improvements in all four clinical variables—general mental health issues, depression, clinical stress, and self-esteem. Such large improvements in these critical mental health issues are impressive and provide strong support for the utility of the YNA groups.



**Dr. Robbie Babins-Wagner**



**Dr. Leslie Tutty**

Nevertheless, the group completion rate of approximately 56% is disappointing given the administrative effort to offer the program, and the effect on the women who stay and feel abandoned when group members do not return. As the women who dropped out of YNA were poorer and reported more clinical issues, an exploration of ways to better engage group members to complete the program is recommended. Nonetheless, the non-completion rate is not a surprise given the high rates of trauma symptoms reported by the women at the start of YNA.

Further, non-completion of the program should not necessarily be seen as a “failure,” as one case example illustrates. A woman whose partner was also in attendance at the men’s perpetrator group stopped YNA about halfway through the group as she began to realize the impact of her childhood sexual abuse history. She connected with the local sexual assault centre and began counselling there.

Ultimately, she left her abusive partner, went to a local shelter and began a new life for herself, and became a local spokesperson for violence against women issues.

In summary, *You're Not Alone* is a promising group therapy model for addressing mental health issues of women abused

by intimate partners. While the major thrust in many communities is, understandably, an effective treatment for the men who abuse intimate partners, it is important to acknowledge the impact of the abuse on women with support and therapeutic treatment alternatives. ☘

**Leslie Tutty** is a professor emerita with the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. From 1999 to 2011, she served as the Academic Research Co-ordinator of RESOLVE Alberta. Contact [tutty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tutty@ucalgary.ca).

**Robbie Babins-Wagner** is the CEO of the Calgary Counselling Centre and an adjunct professor with the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary. Contact [Robbie.Wagner@calgarycounselling.com](mailto:Robbie.Wagner@calgarycounselling.com).

*The published evaluation can be accessed at:* Tutty, L. M., Babins-Wagner & Rothery, M. A. (2015). *You're Not Alone: Mental health outcomes in therapy groups for abused women. Journal of Family Violence, 30.* doi:10.1007/s10896-015-9779-6

## December 6

*National Day of Remembrance  
and Action on Violence  
Against Women*



*Buying Sex...* continued from Page 3



The Sporting Events Safety Working Group includes representatives from the Government of Manitoba; Winnipeg Police Service; RCMP; Winnipeg Blue Bombers Football Club; and The City of Winnipeg. These organizations are working hand-in-hand with a number of prominent nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) known for their work combating interpersonal violence and sexual exploitation. The NGOs include Youth Agency Alliance, Beyond Borders, Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre, Salvation Army, Klinik Community Health Centre, and Ndinawemaaganag Ednaawaad. This broad alliance of organizations speaks to the commitment in our community through the power of partnerships in confronting the sexual exploitation of vulnerable individuals in our society.

The Campaign launch included the announcement of Manitoba's new permanent **Human Trafficking Hotline 1-844-333-2211**, run by Klinik Community Health Centre. This hotline will operate 24-7, and is staffed by trained counsellors who will provide crisis intervention, and connect callers to emergency shelters, financial assistance, trauma counseling and police services. In the month leading up to the Grey Cup highly visible ads with the *Buying Sex is Not a Sport* logo (see left) will appear on Winnipeg

transit buses, as well as in restaurant and bar bathrooms, and will include the distribution of posters and fact sheets, and social media messages. ☘

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



**November 25 - December 10, 2015 - Orange the World: End Violence Against Women and Girls.** The **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign** is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. The international campaign originated from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. 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).

**March 22 - 24, 2016 - International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Engaging Men & Boys**, in Washington, DC, U.S.A.. Presented by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI). For more information refer to [www.evawintl.org/conferences.aspx](http://www.evawintl.org/conferences.aspx).

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



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## Call for Letters of Intent 2016

Prairieaction Foundation is calling for Letters of Intent (LOI) to conduct research that supports solutions to violence and abuse. The goal of the **Community, Action, Research and Education (CARE)** grant program is to support community-based research onto solutions to violence and abuse. This program funds qualifying charitable organizations to do research projects that identify potential strategies, models, and methods to eliminate the issues and impact of family violence and abuse.

There are now two call dates per year:

- **May 1 to July 15**
- **November 1 to January 15**

If your organization or institution is interested in applying for a 2016 CARE Grant, the deadlines to submit your Letter of Intent are **January 15, 2016**, and **July 15, 2016**. For more information about the application process, please visit our website at **[www.prairieaction.ca](http://www.prairieaction.ca)**. ☞

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*~ Dr. Jane Ursel ~  
Director (RESOLVE)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."*  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994

Agreement# 40063171

## Investigating Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence in the Northwest Territories



by *Dr. Pertice Moffit*

**F**aculty and students at Aurora College, as well as community members from Yellowknife, NWT, are engaged in a team project entitled *"Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence* with **Mary Hampton** and **Dianne Delaney**, Principal Investigators from the University of Regina, Saskatchewan. We are over the halfway mark in this five year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council funded study. This is a perfect time to reflect on our accomplishments and continued progress in the study in our territorial jurisdiction.

The study uses a collaborative community-based approach at all levels of the research to address three research questions. What are the needs of women who experience intimate partner violence? What are the gaps in meeting the needs of women who experience intimate partner violence? What can we do to create and sustain non-violent communities?

Our territorial team consists of **Pertice Moffitt** (Academic Lead) and **Lyda Fuller** (Community Lead), along with **Heather Fikowski** (Co-Academic Investigator), several student research assistants (**Marshirette Mauricio**, **Ann Mackenzie**, and now **Cheryl Cleary**, **Valisa Aho**), **Gail Cyr** (Aboriginal Representative), **John Kelly** and now **Greg Towler** (RCMP Representatives). The team fluctuates as students graduate, members transfer, and with the birth of babies. We meet monthly with the Coalition against Family Violence, a territorial action group chaired by the Status of Women Council of the NWT. These meetings are salient to our interface with the community since this committee, of which we are members, has the pulse of community efforts in terms of activism, awareness, and education.

In the first year of the study we conducted an environmental scan of resources for women in the territory who experience IPV. Concurrently, the PI collected the reported incidents of IPV from the RCMP for all jurisdictions. With the statistics and results of the environmental scan, we initiated the creation of geographical information system (GIS) maps with the assistance of **Paul Hackett**, Research Team Member from the University of Saskatchewan. The maps provide a visual analysis of the territory in terms of the integration of the reported incidents of IPV and the resources available (particularly shelters, victim services, community health services, and RCMP).

Over the second year we interviewed front-line workers (RCMP, victim-service and shelter workers). The context of our territory dictated a different approach, as only five of the 33 communities in the NWT have designated shelters, and 11 communities are without RCMP. Many victims of IPV seek help at community health centres, which are staffed by community health nurses or social workers. Many communities simply have no resources and others may have no community health centre. The reality

*IPV response... cont'd on Page 6*

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## Making a Connection...in Order to Make Change (Part I)



by Paul Klostermaier-Starkewski

As November, domestic violence awareness month, passed us by, I knew that the topic of intimate partner violence would fade out of the media spot light for another year, unless some horrific event places the topic in the news again. Unfortunately, my work with men who behave abusively toward their intimate partners—although not in the spotlight—is busy every month of the year.



When I started in this field I thought the pathways to stopping men from behaving abusively was straightforward. I, like most in the field, was trained through the lens of Power and Control and accepted this wholeheartedly as the foundation for working on changing these men's behaviour.

Before long, it became apparent that work in this field was not as straightforward as the research, training and literature made it seem. I first realized that many traditional counseling practices asked men to process things in ways that they are not used to, expecting them to speak of and label emotions other than anger. This did not help in my intervening with men who behave abusively toward their partners, men who have difficulty acknowledging emotions like fear, hurt, or loss, because of their more traditional/patriarchal ways of being.

I realized that the power and control model differed from more traditional counseling practices in that it allowed no room for men to define their reality. We defined it for them by our "telling" them that they are abusive and violent *because* of their desire for power and control. If men wanted to speak about life experiences that may have or still are affecting their life, it was seen as a diversionary tactic used to avoid talking about their abusive behaviour. Also different from traditional counseling practice was the lack of discussions, or at least acknowledgements of possible past victimization that men may have experienced as this was seen as irrelevant to the subject at hand—the men's use of power and control.

When it came to the topic of power and control, I struggled to focus only on this because I felt I unfairly simplified the complexities of power and control and the complexities of men's lives. I knew many of these men felt they had no power and control in their life because they were marginalized due to low income, limited education, unemployment and ethnicity.

Many times men appeared to be surprised and even frustrated by the suggestion their behaviour was purposeful and intended. What seemed even more frustrating was when some began to tell me of their own victimizations and/or pain only to have me quickly negate this conversation as my training had taught. These "stopped" conversations made me wonder how men who behave abusively could be so different than others, that we must treat their past life experiences as not an important part of why they sat in front of me.

Finally, my original training informed me that the Power and Control model was the *right* way to understand and change their behaviour. Further, if the men did not agree with this model, my role was to convince or even force them to accept this as fact. Thus, I became engaged with these men in confrontational techniques in which they excelled. Many men were more comfortable arguing with me about the model than examining their own motivations and behaviour. This led me to reflect on the goal of treatment...is it to get them to agree with a model that makes no sense to them, or is it to find a way to get them to examine their relationships and their behaviour?

I've realized this one dimensional model of power and control is not conducive to the creation of a strong rapport with the men in front of me, where it is crucial for them to reflect on their own behaviour, and hopefully try things differently. My next article—in the May 2014 Newsletter—will focus on what has helped me to be more successful working with this population of men. ☘

## Manitoba Update: *Preventive Policing: A New Road to Safer Communities*



by Jane Ursel

As a researcher and advocate for victims of domestic violence, I have often been in the position of contacting the Winnipeg Police Service to register a complaint or concern or to call for new initiatives to better serve victims. When the City of Winnipeg announced our new police chief a little over a year ago, **Chief Clunis** expressed the belief that crime prevention can be attained through social development and identified his interest in including a strong prevention perspective in policing. While I was very pleased to hear about such an interest, I understood that policing a community with very high rates of domestic violence calls to police and serious challenges around gangs in our city often leaves little energy and resources for prevention.

However, I have been very pleasantly surprised and pleased by a number of initiatives announced this year that indicate a strong prevention approach to policing:

1. A new approach to exploitation: In the November 9 issue of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, I read about the Winnipeg Police Service's commitment to a nine-member counter exploitation unit, including two non-enforcement officers. These officers will support and assist women and youth at high risk for exploitation in the sex-trade. Having completed a number of research projects with women and youth attempting to exit the sex-trade, I am aware of how frequently they are the victims of violence and abuse. I think this new initiative reflects this reality and provides a more supportive response to individuals experiencing exploitation in the sex-trade.

2. Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) Endowment Fund:

This fund has been designed for the advancement and enrichment of underserved and at-risk families and children. The goal of the fund is to subsidize recognized projects within the community, which support the WPS vision of creating a culture of safety. This is a very concrete fiscal commitment to building a safer and healthier community and it is also a very powerful statement of the WPS commitment to prevention.



Photos courtesy of The Winnipeg Foundation



3. A similar message is being communicated to the residents of Winnipeg with **Superintendent Bill Fogg's** involvement with the *Growing Active Kids* initiative jointly funded by the Province, the Federal Government, and the Winnipeg Foundation. This is a project that engages all levels of government and community to provide positive learning and playing environments for inner city kids. As the Winnipeg Foundation states "Kids are naturally curious and eager to learn new things. Presenting opportunities and supporting talents and interests at an early age—whether through sports or music lessons—helps them become healthier, stronger and more engaged adults. *Growing Active Kids* provides grants for educational, recreational and cultural activities

for Winnipeg youth living in social housing and surrounding neighbourhoods."

Prevention is often a very hard sell to police services because the fruits of such labour are sometimes many years down the road. It is encouraging to note that despite the many challenges our city faces, we haven't lost sight of the rich potential of investing in prevention. ❀

## Saskatchewan Update: *Adult Education at PATHS*



by Kim Fellner

**E**ducation is a growing focus at the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS). PATHS' mission is to provide integrated, collaborative support for PATHS members who work with individuals directly or indirectly exposed to violence, and to provide research, program development, public awareness and education on personal and family violence in Saskatchewan. In 2013, PATHS hired **Kim Fellner** as the adult education consultant to support this mission.

Combined with her understanding of domestic violence, Kim's experience in adult education is the right mix for PATHS. Kim began her professional work in the field of domestic violence at Regina Transition House, where she was hired to research, design and implement a shelter-based outreach program. She worked as Outreach Coordinator and followed up with women after their shelter stay, supported them in the community, and facilitated weekly support/educational groups. During this time she also contributed to public education on domestic violence and delivered presentations to professionals and community service workers. Kim is an instructor at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology and teaches in program areas that include Victim Service Coordination, Youth Care Worker, and Continuing Care Assistant. She is also a student in the Masters of Adult Education program at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Profession of Shelter and Service Work is a recent project within the scope of adult education. The purpose of this project was to create a profile of professional shelter and service workers in Saskatchewan, along with a hiring guide, hiring tools, and job descriptions specific to PATHS member agencies. Eleven PATHS member agencies across Saskatchewan participated in staff workshops and interviews as a primary data collection method in this project. It was important to hear from the experts—those doing the work—about what makes up this profession. Collected information was sorted and coded according to four broad themes: Skills, Values, Education, and Personal Strengths.

Skills is broadly defined in terms of tasks and actions. This theme includes not only specific abilities and competencies but also the many items that make up a daily "to-do" list. Essential skills related to client services, administration, community relations, communication, daily operations (of facilities), and groups/programs.

Values encompasses the ethics, beliefs, and guiding principles of the profession. Twelve main values were identified, which include boundaries, collaboration/teamwork, communication, compassion, confidentiality,

empathy, empowerment, equality, non-judgement, professionalism, respect, and support.

Education is both formal and informal education that Professional Shelter/Service Workers possess and/or receive from a variety of sources. This includes formal education (e.g. high school or university), licences and certificates, professional development, and other knowledge on specific topics and issues.

Personal Strengths are the qualities or characteristics inherent in the individual that are not necessarily a requirement of employment but which contribute to occupational success and satisfaction. Examples include a sense of humour, passion for the work, and knowledge of self/self-awareness.

PATHS believes these themes are essential components of our members' work and this project serves to capture the essence of the work being done across the province. Recently, the task of creating a profile, hiring guide, tools, and a job description has been completed. Once presented to the PATHS board of directors, the focus will shift to begin looking at emergent training needs.

Other educational endeavors at PATHS include domestic violence education for RCMP cadets, *Sharing Our Knowledge* workshops focused on Aboriginal culture training for shelter staff, PATHS' member education related to information from the *Origins of Violence: Strategies for Change* project, and the investigation into the use of online training for PATHS' members. ☘



Kim Fellner

## Alberta Update: *Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence*



by Lana Wells



Before being appointed The Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, **Lana Wells** was a member of the senior leadership team at the United Way of Calgary and Area, where she led the community investments and collaborations division and the public policy and government relations portfolio. Her areas of expertise include family and sexual violence, women's issues, children and youth services, social policy, social justice and social change, leadership and organizational change and the not for profit sector. Lana is currently the president of The Alex—an organization that provides health care delivery to at-risk, low-income, homeless, and immigrant Calgarians. Lana is the past president of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (2000-2002). In 2012, Lana became

a fellow at the School of Public Policy, University of Calgary where she is teaching on social policy in Canada. She is currently leading the MSW Leadership Program in the Faculty of Social Work, where she also teaches on leadership.

**I**n 2010, *Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence* ([www.preventdomesticviolence.ca](http://www.preventdomesticviolence.ca)) was initiated by **Lana Wells**, the Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence, in the Faculty of Social Work, at the University of Calgary. Via Shift, Dr. Wells' goal is to significantly reduce domestic violence in Alberta with a primary prevention approach to stop first-time victimization and perpetration through enhancing the capacity of policy makers, systems leaders, clinicians, service providers and the community at large. The project is committed to making research accessible and working collaboratively with a diverse range of stakeholders to inform and influence current and future domestic violence prevention efforts through primary prevention.

Shift has produced over 25 research reports (found at [www.preventdomesticviolence.ca](http://www.preventdomesticviolence.ca)) spanning content areas as diverse as home visitation programs; alcohol control strategies; promoting and building healthy youth strategies; approaches to prevent sexual violence; the cost of domestic violence in Alberta; engaging men and boys in violence prevention; evidence-based policies to prevent domestic violence; and more. Over the same period, the project cultivated strategic relationships with a wide range of stakeholders from government, non-profit organizations, education, research networks and citizen groups in order to build the social infrastructure needed to create and sustain change at multiple levels.

In 2012, Shift completed an extensive policy review outlining six key areas in which policy and legislation could be used as a tool to prevent domestic violence in Alberta (<http://preventdomesticviolence.ca/research/how-public-policy-and-legislation-can-support-prevention-domestic-violence-alberta>). The report, *How Public Policy and Legislation can support the Prevention of Domestic Violence in Alberta* has over 50 recommendations for specific, evidence-informed

program and policy amendments and initiatives to enhance the province's existing family-violence strategy in areas ranging from prevention of childhood exposure to violence in the home to improving school age children's healthy relationships to engaging men and fathers in family violence prevention.

In April 2012, Shift entered into a partnership with the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health Centre for Prevention Science, the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Human Services, United Way of Calgary and Area and the City of Calgary's Family & Community Support Services to create a robust, multi-pronged strategy aimed at cultivating healthy relationship skills in young people throughout Alberta. The strategy includes school- and community-based programming, strategic coordination, and capacity development for both service providers and teachers. This approach is testing the alignment and synergies of systems, policy makers, practitioners and academics to create change at scale.

Other important work included support of the November 29, 2013, release at the University of Calgary of the new provincial government's *Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A framework to End Family Violence in Alberta*. This policy framework will direct new investments, policy and legislative changes over the next five to ten years. This framework makes the connection of how poverty, gender inequality, racism, child sexual abuse and maltreatment, homophobia, violence against women, affordable housing, addictions, and mental health intersect and contribute to family violence. The framework also includes several cross ministry and community priorities that will significantly reduce and prevent family violence. For a copy of the new framework please see <http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/family-violence-hurts-everyone.pdf>. ☘

**IPV response... cont'd from Page 1**

of the small population base, the large expanse of sparsely-inhabited wilderness, and the lack of services and resources makes remoteness a theme particular to the NWT.



We also added a second cartographer/geographer, **Joe Piwawa**, who along with Paul Hackett and their students enhanced earlier maps and created two additional maps based on NWT databases. One of these maps demonstrates spatially the distance from each of the communities to Yellowknife—where a trip can take 25 to 120 hours—and differentiates seasonal travel in winter from summer. Ice roads across the NWT lessen the travel time required to access services for victims of IPV. The second map used the NWT Coroner's report of ten years of homicides. Since our study initiated in 2011, there have been three additional homicides.

**Transportation**

Transportation out of remote communities is sometimes limited by weather, and by spring break-up and fall freeze-up, so access can be denied. High winds on open waters makes travel by boat dangerous. Scheduled flight times are inconsistent due to dependence on the weather.

**Climate**

The climate in the Arctic is a formidable aspect of remoteness. One participant stated *"You have to think twice before you run out. Some people do but most people say [you] can't run, so [you] will just have to stay for the climate alone...whereas down south it is at least warm, you could at least run outside and go to your neighbour. But even if it is your neighbour that is 100 yards away, and you are not properly clothed or have the time to get properly clothed."*

**Poorly Resourced**

Of the 33 communities, one-third does not have RCMP in the community, and almost 80% do not have Victim Services. As previously stated, there are only five shelters in the North and are mostly in the larger centres (there is one in Tuktoyuktuk). The largest shelter has only 12 beds. The Yellowknife shelter is considered the main entry for the vast majority of women in the NWT and when needed, is also accessed by women from Nunavut. These shelters are not consistently open because of funding and staffing availability—two of the five shelters close if there is no one staying and at those times. One of the participants described their community responsiveness in this way:

*"There is no local victim services committee or liaison or anything like that. We have to always put them in touch with somebody outside of the community and the follow-up on that is very sporadic and it could take weeks before the outreach person from another community has an opportunity to even speak to people in this community. In many cases, most people that we're dealing with here don't have a home phone, so home visits would be required by the victim services people and without somebody local, it just doesn't happen."*

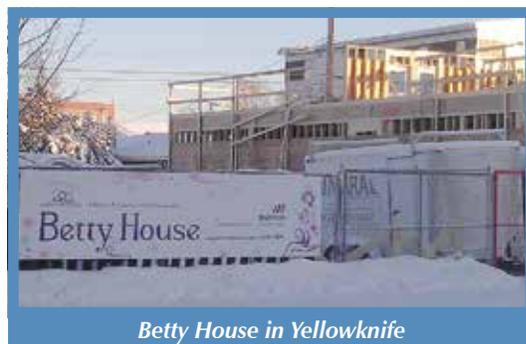
**Poverty**

With little to no employment in these remote communities unemployed women rely on their partner for income or even just to get wood for the fire. Communication issues arise because women cannot access telephones to get help. As well, there are very few communities where cell phones operate. Furthermore, the RCMP has a centralized telephone service and there can be delays in reaching the police. One participant said, *"A lot of them [community women] don't have phones. You know, how do they call for help? They run out their doors and run to their neighbour who has a phone or they try to hide in somebody's house until they can call the RCMP."*

**History of Colonialism**

The intergenerational impact of residential schools permeates the data in terms of its interrelationship with IPV, and there is a connection to the overarching theme of remoteness. In a sense, this aspect of being sent away

*IPV response... cont'd on Page 7*



Betty House in Yellowknife

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



**February 19, 2014 - 5th Annual Fab Fem Fundraiser** in support of the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, at the West End Cultural Centre in Winnipeg, MB. The evening opens with young musician Sydney Kurbis and features speaker Kal Barteski, and singer/songwriter Sol James. Tickets are available by calling (204) 477-1123.



International  
Women's Day

**March 8, 2014 - International Women's Day 2014: Inspiring Change.** This year's theme for [internationalwomensday.com](http://internationalwomensday.com) global hub encourages advocacy for women's advancement everywhere in every way. It calls for challenging the status quo for women's equality and vigilance inspiring positive change. For events in your area refer to [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com).

**April 22 - 24, 2014 - 2014 International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Trafficking** is presented by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) and will take place in Seattle, Washington, USA. This conference consistently brings together law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, victim advocates, judges, parole and probation officers, rape crisis workers, medical personnel, faith community members, educators and others in this three day conference highlighting promising practices and emerging issues in sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking. Register by February 28, 2014, and save \$50 off the full conference fee. For information or to register online refer to [www.evawintl.org](http://www.evawintl.org).

**Klinic's Evolve Program:** As part of it's contribution to Family Violence Prevention month in Manitoba, Klinic's Evolve Program developed a pamphlet titled **Are you Getting Enough?**. The intention behind this pamphlet was to invite people to consider the state and health of their relationship and whether enough of their needs were being met within the context of their relationships. The pamphlet includes three simple self assessment tools, *Knowing Your Needs*, a *Relationship Checkup* and finally a *Domestic Violence Questionnaire*. To download a copy of *Are You Getting Enough?* visit [www.klinic.mb.ca](http://www.klinic.mb.ca). Evolve is a family violence prevention program that provides individual and group counselling to women who have been abused in an intimate relationship and to men who have behaved abusively in an intimate relationship.

### IPV response... cont'd from Page 6

continues, albeit for an immediate need of safety for women and their children. The impact of residential schools within the shelter system lives on as described by this participant:

*"So in the smaller communities, and I could understand this myself because I grew up in them...we had to make do with what we had in the home and the majority of them were living off the country food, like the fish, caribou. You know, prepared in different ways in the year. Like rabbits geese, ducks...So when they do come to the shelter, some of them [Aboriginal women] are not used to having veggies like broccoli, cauliflower, carrots. Because a lot of them don't eat like that at home. And not only that, those [community people] that came from residential school were forced to eat whatever was given to them. And I think the hardest part for a lot of people up here is that they're so...their trust is very low, especially [when] coming from an abusive relationship."*

To conclude, remoteness contributes to an interdependent and closely related (often by marriage or kinship) people bound in small communities. This makes for a complex community problem. When you consider the experience of IPV as it transpires in a condition of remoteness, the vulnerability of women becomes apparent. Anonymity and privacy are mostly impossible for IPV victims and perpetrators if a community is named in a study. This becomes salient for researchers. Safety and security are critical when jeopardized but precarious to attain because communities are hindered by remoteness as experienced by women today. Remoteness creates a catch-22 whereby the context "locks them [victims, perpetrators, care providers] in" without viable resources and violence itself becomes more lethal and fatal, as there is "nowhere to go" and no hope for change, so the community desensitizes by accepting and normalizing IPV. ☹

\*References available upon request.

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



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### What's Happening at Prairieaction Foundation

In December 2013, PAF held our Annual General Meeting, where we elected **Rod McKendrick** as Chair, **Lisa Broda** as Vice-Chair, **Marlene Bertrand C.M.** as Secretary, and **Nicole Lang** as Treasurer.

The remainder of the Board consists of:

- **Laura Hughes** – Alberta
- **Cynthia Brick** – Manitoba
- **Teri Posyniak** – Alberta
- **Heather Salloum** – Saskatchewan

**Kathy Ogryzlo**, who has spent many years on the Board and served in every position including the Chair of the Foundation, will be stepping away from the Board and will be taking on the role of Administrative Director for the Foundation. We wish to thank her for her dedication on the Prairieaction Foundation Board and to all the work she does. We also look forward to working closely with her in her new role.

Our new mailing address as of January 31, 2014, is:

31250 Woodland Way  
Calgary, Alberta T3R 1G5

Further details are available at [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca). ☞

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."*  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994

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## Requisites for a Non-Violent Society



*by Diane Delaney, PATHS – Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan*

**V**iolence is a global problem that we encounter at an interpersonal level, in group dynamics, and between communities and nations. Wherever it is situated violence can cause physical harm and profound emotional damage. An ideal world is one in which there is no violence. The renowned philosopher **Hannah Arendt** said, *"The practice of violence, like all action, changes the world, but the most probable change is to a more violent world."* If we are to create peaceful communities we must address the issue from a multi-disciplinary perspective that explores psychological, philosophical, and cultural components in addition to the sociological and feminist understandings of what causes violence. These aspects of root causes of violence and possible solutions can be viewed by use of a framework that encompasses security, knowledge, values, and equality.

### Security

Children benefit from growing up in an environment where they experience love and care. This type of environment helps them to feel secure and safe. When children develop in a space where they are not fearful and are able to form strong, healthy and consistent attachments, they develop a physiology of the brain which results in healthy emotional development. We need to ensure that our children are forming these nurturing relationships from the moment they are born. Children raised in a secure environment where they are confident in the caregiving capacity of mothers, fathers, grandparents, and other friends and relations are then free to explore their environments without fear. They then become productive, creative and loving people

themselves.

### Values

We require communities where people feel a sense of responsibility to act ethically. We need to follow principles of conduct which ensure that we are treating others in a way in which we ourselves would want to be treated. Many spiritual teachings and philosophies are based on values such as love, honesty, respect, compassion, and generosity. Having these values become a common groundwork to all our actions, and which is part of people's shared identity, will ensure that we develop non-violent responses to conflict and resort to communication and mediation rather than the authoritarian response implied by violence.

### Equality

Research shows us that unequal societies have higher rates of violence. The creation of equal societies can only occur when we place more value on social cohesion and less on consumption. This focus on social cohesion will ensure that our economic policies will benefit all in a fair way without excluding those who are marginalized by way of ethnicity, race,

*Non-Violent Society... cont'd on Page 6*

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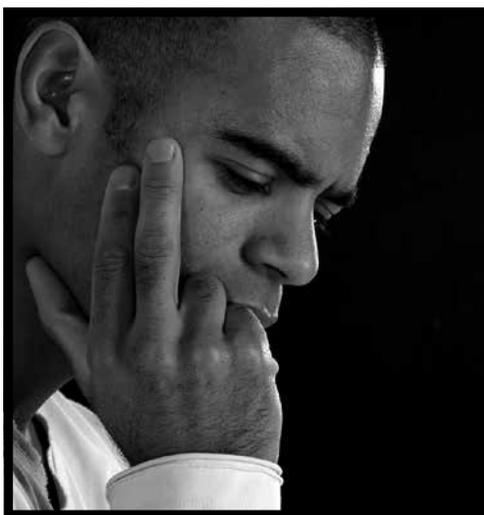
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## Making a Connection...in Order to Make Change (Part II)



by Paul Klostermaier-Starkewski

Over the past 16 years I have had a challenging and rewarding career working with men who have behaved abusively toward their intimate partners. The challenge to make a connection with these men has kept me motivated to seek out approaches that engage them in meaningful conversations, and in so doing, have discovered that this engagement is more easily accomplished than I had first anticipated.



In the last Newsletter I spoke about aspects of traditional Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) interventions with men that, for me, “got in the way” of success with these individuals. The basis of these approaches—Power and Control—is still a reality in IPV, but how I perceive it and how I address it has slowly been transforming in hopes of becoming more effective.

Research has indicated that effectiveness in IPV interventions increases when a strong rapport has been developed between the client and the clinician. Those in the helping field understand that development of a strong rapport involves such things as honesty, collaboration, compassion, respect, care, and even acceptance that the client is the expert of their own life. This is the mindset that I use to encourage men to engage in meaningful conversations about their behaviours, experiences, and how their goals/priorities for their relationship often differ from the way they behaved. Creating dissonance for these men helps them in reflecting on their behaviour, and even to start talking about and changing this behaviour.

These same conversations help bring about the stark contrast between the men’s behaviour and their feelings of guilt and shame. Applying the approaches of T. Augusta-Scott, A. Jenkins, W. Miller, S. Rollnick, and S. de Shazer, I start a process in which I use these “negative” emotions to help the men identify their true beliefs of not wanting to harm others, especially those they care about. This eventually turns our conversations to the future and what the men want in their future intimate relationships. By weaving

back and forth between the past, present and future, the men can start planning and practicing new behaviours for the future based on their lived experience. As the planning and practicing discussions become more concrete, I make use of some basic Cognitive Behavioural Therapy techniques to put some real actions to these conversations.

I have moved away from telling the men they have to talk about the specifics of their abusive and violent behaviour. The reality is

that most men will acknowledge that their behaviour did not bring about the positives they had hoped for in their relationships. Conversations in a supportive, compassionate manner help to keep them engaged with the goal of taking responsibility for their behaviour moving forward from today.

As part of establishing and maintaining a strong rapport, I actively acknowledge the men’s own possible victimizations, either early in life or even as adults. It is important to leave space for these conversations as it allows compassion for the harm done to them and allows for growth in understanding the harm done by their behaviour.

Coming from a place of care and compassion does not mean I completely lose perspective to the potential lethality of these men. I keep myself up to date with the latest research on what are the risk factors to re-offending in IPV as well as in general offending behaviour. I recognize how important it is to engage in the above described process, especially with someone who has a higher risk to re-offend. In fact, research states the higher the risk, the more need to connect with meaningful conversations, more often.

Finally, research in this area is still in its infancy which restrains me from using only one approach. The work I do with each man is prescriptive to them and may or may not look similar to the work I do with the next man. The reality is, because these men are such a heterogeneous population, it may never be best practice to use only one approach. ☘

## Manitoba Update: A Busy Term With Much to Celebrate



by Jane Ursel

### Carolynne Boivin Bursary

Since 2000, RESOLVE Manitoba has administered a bursary fund set up to honour Carolynne Boivin, former President of the Prairieaction Foundation. Since then, we have awarded bursaries to 15 students at the University of Manitoba who pursue graduate studies in the area of domestic violence. This year we are pleased to announce our 2013/14 bursary recipients.

**Nicole MacInnis** is a new graduate student who comes to us from Calgary, where she completed her undergraduate work. Her thesis project for a Master's degree in Sociology is to examine variables from the Canadian General Social Survey to determine factors that would encourage or deter sexual assault victims



Nicole MacInnis

from reporting to the police. This will build upon her honours thesis that involved an Internet survey of self-identified victims/survivors of sexual assault and their reasons for deciding to report or not report to the police. Given the well documented low rate of reporting we look forward to Nicole's study, which will examine this critical issue using national data.



Alysha Jones

Our second bursary recipient is **Alysha Jones**, who will explore a lively debate within the criminological literature about the value and purpose of "conditions" imposed on accused released on bail or offenders on probation. There are some criminologists

who see the increasing number of imposed conditions as violating the accused/offenders human rights. However, none of the studies cited to support this position have ever looked at domestic violence (D.V.) cases. Alysha will examine this issue to explore the extent to which the conditions imposed in D. V. cases are designed to protect victims and examine the characteristics of the accused/offenders whose

activities are restrained by conditions. This study will be an important contribution to the literature on domestic violence and criminology.

Our third bursary recipient is **Mariah Baldwin**, who is conducting research on different government responses to the tragedy of domestic homicides. She will examine a range of responses from formal inquiries, to domestic violence death review committees, to one time reviews of a number of homicides, to commissioned studies. Her examination of this range of responses will explore which model/s have the greatest potential for tertiary prevention.



Mariah Baldwin

### International Visitor

RESOLVE Manitoba was pleased to host a visitor from Portugal who is currently doing a Ph.D. in Law at Queensland University in Australia. **Patricia Pais**



Patricia Pais

is a lawyer who has practiced as a public defender and as a public prosecutor in Portugal. Her work as a prosecutor dealing with domestic violence cases piqued her interest in how criminal justice systems in other jurisdictions respond to domestic assault.

Ms. Pais was in Winnipeg for a month examining our court, interviewing police, prosecutors, judges and victim service workers about the process in Winnipeg. She selected our city because of its long history with a specialized court and the fact that Winnipeg is approximately the same size as Porto, Portugal, where she practiced law. In our discussions I was struck by how similar the challenges of intervention in domestic violence are despite differences in countries, cultures and judicial systems. We look forward to reading the results of her very ambitious project. ☘

## Saskatchewan Update: Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence



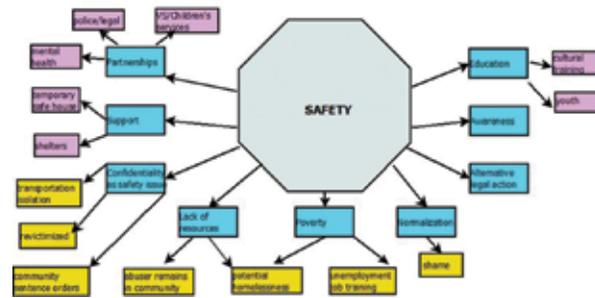
by Darlene Juschka

In 2011, Dr. Mary Hampton from Luther College, University of Regina, Diane Delaney from PATHS Saskatchewan—along with researchers and community partners in the three Prairie Provinces and the Northwest Territories—were awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council–Community-University Research Alliances grant for the study on *Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence*. This study is conducted under the umbrella of RESOLVE and led by RESOLVE Saskatchewan. The purpose of this study is to look at the services available to women who experience intimate partner violence (IPV) in rural and northern locations. IPV takes a multitude of forms while levels and intensity vary, and requires a variety of responses. Furthermore, IPV can take more severe forms for those who live in rural and remote areas, even as women have decreased access to IPV services. This project aims to assist in the development of pathways toward sustainable, violence-free communities.

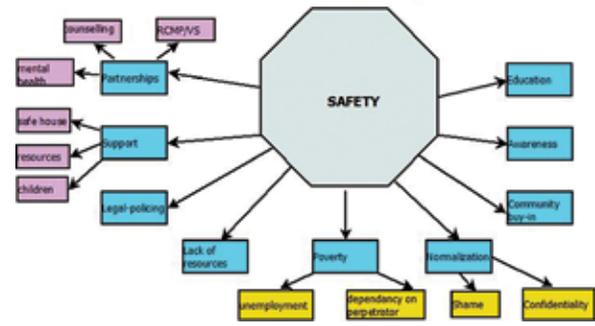
for one research site are safety plans; housing needs; partnership with other agencies and case planning; child care access; transportation; safe house; proactive policing and Victims Services; first Nations Victim’s Services; education; mental health; children’s services; confidentiality; change IPV perception.

From our open coding and maps we identified two communities—one northern and one rural—for in-depth analysis, which will commence Summer or Fall 2014.

Open codes were then subjected to axial coding. Axial coding requires that researchers abstract their open codes to identify comprehensive categories by which the open codes can be organized. The creation of more comprehensive categories allowed us to show relationships between the open codes. The axial coding was done by researchers and community partners. In Saskatchewan we determined that safety is our core axial code to which all of the axial codes relate. From here we



**Saskatchewan Axial Coding – Northern**



**Saskatchewan Axial Coding – Rural**

All provinces began the interview process early in 2013. Throughout March, until early June, interviews were transcribed by student assistants. Prior to our mid-June 2013 meeting, all sites began to open-code those transcribed interviews. Open coding consists of looking for response patterns with the research questions in mind. Different programs can be employed to open-code but NVIVO was chosen as it allows us to check code reliability. In Saskatchewan, interviews were geographically coded according to our eleven determined research sites. The open codes for Saskatchewan are too numerous to relate here but a sample of our codes for question one, “What are the needs of women who experience intimate partner violence in rural and northern regions of Canada?”

diagrammed the axial coding according the northern and rural allowing us to visualize the relationships between the axial codes.

These diagrams are now in the process of being narrativized. Narrativization of codes requires a return to the interviews and participants’ language in order to “tell the story” of axial codes. This aspect of the project will be completed by our next face-to-face meeting in June 2014.

In 2014-2015, our project will detail geographical and environmental features and gather demographic information from our two specified sites. On-site focus groups will be conducted to allow a networked approach to IPV, and secure non-violent communities in northern and rural Saskatchewan. ☘

## Alberta Update: Adaptive Functioning of Children Exposed to Domestic Violence: Parent Perceptions of the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics and a Psycho-educational Play Therapy Model



by Rhonda Kent, YWCA of Calgary; Dawne Clark and Justine Palinkas of Mount Royal University



The YWCA of Calgary offers therapeutic services and programs for individuals and families exposed to domestic violence. A Saturday Children's and Parenting Program is a ten-week group therapy program that separates children from parents and provides counselling and educational services. For the past three years program facilitators have worked with **Dr. Bruce Perry** and his therapeutic approach with traumatized children. A decision was made to examine parent perceptions of the adaptive functioning of their children, ages four to seven, who were exposed to domestic violence after receiving intervention techniques informed by Perry's (2006) *Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics* (NMT), as compared to the YWCA's psycho-educational play therapy based model of intervention. From January 2012, to June 2013, the Centre for Child Well-Being at Mount Royal University worked with YWCA staff to conduct the study.

### Methodology

Participants were drawn from parents and children registered in the YWCA Saturday Parenting Group program and the YWCA Children's Group program. Group sessions (morning and afternoon programs) were offered using one therapy approach only: January and September 2012 groups used play therapy, and April 2012 and January 2013 groups used NMT. Parents and 79 children, aged four to seven, participated in the study. Quantitative data was gathered pre- and post program with two parent completed developmental questionnaires: the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional subscales (ASQ-SE) and the Achenbach Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL). Interviews were conducted after the eighth week, with six parents per group. Ten questions asked about changes seen in children, parents, and their relationship, as well as how helpful parents found the group and its activities for their children. A facilitator focus group was conducted after the first NMT

group to determine how prepared facilitators were for NMT implementation and how they felt the approach worked in their groups. The NMT group sessions included children's activities with controlled movement games, music and dance, yoga poses, breathing and relaxation exercises, and drumming. The parent program included education on brain development and NMT principles, with an emphasis on the power of positive relationships. Group play therapy sessions included a check-in, structured group time, child centred play time, and checkout. Structured group activities focused on the topic of the day, and included such activities as artwork, stories, and role-play. Parents from both groups were asked to complete homework assignments with their children to help reinforce learning.

### Findings

This study indicated that NMT is an effective approach that produces positive results for families that experience domestic violence. NMT groups showed positive change in overall average scores on the ASQ-SE and the CBCL. Parents in the NMT interviews identified positive changes in their lives as the result of the program. For example:

*"For me to have the opportunity to put myself in a child's shoes, in my children's shoes, and to try and understand what they are saying and feeling has given me so many gifts."*

*"We have a closeness, a togetherness...caring for each other, nurturing, compassion."*

*"Our home has a different energy."*

*"I'll do anything for my kids in terms of getting through tough situations and healing. It's not too late. That's the biggest thing ... it's not too late to fix this. Heal them."*

Facilitators felt that the NMT program and its activities were helpful for children and parents. Teaching parents about brain development and providing concrete specific tools for them to use with their children was a successful approach, as was encouraging parents-through the homework assignments-to act as coaches throughout the week to reinforce group experiences. ❧

References available upon request from the Editor.

## **Non-Violent Society...** cont'd from Page 1

disability, status, or gender. We require restored social spending which does not exploit the environment and changes to a market system that, by its nature, does not allow us to set as a priority care for one another and for the earth.

### **Knowledge**

Non-violent communities are ones where knowledge is valued. We need to reflect on the causes of violence and come to understand these causes in the most real way so that we can respond most effectively to address the issues. We must reflect on personal attitudes, examine research on the issue, and engage in dialogue with each other as we explore not only the causes of violence but also alternative solutions to resolve conflict. A violent response is often taken because we believe there is no other way to deal with our fears and working towards our goals.

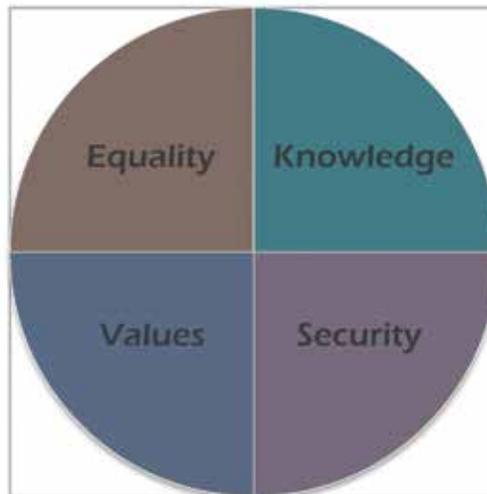
These findings and the framework developed by PATHS was the result of a grant received from the Prairie Action Foundation. This grant was the impetus which allowed us to examine the issue of violence from a broader perspective than has been done to date. While researchers in their work may have touched upon all the quadrants of our mandala, generally they have a primary focus on one area such as the individual psychological causes or biological structures. In the case of violence against women, we have always examined the issue through a gender lens which has enabled us to develop a deep understanding of the structural roots of violence, an essential component of the bigger picture. The feminist movement, of which the shelter movement has played a key role, did an exemplary job of defining the problem and naming many specific actions which would result in equality between women and men including pay equity, access to daycare and treating violence against women as a criminal offence. This gendered perspective helped us to understand equality as a key component of the causes of violence. Any marginalized group is at risk of increased violence so that if we are to end violence, we must work towards creating societies where one group is not favoured over another.

Often feminists resist stepping beyond the structural analysis, but it is our belief that unless we do this we will

never be able to achieve violence-free societies. This goal may be utopian but a vision is an essential first step in making change. A common vision puts us all on the same page, whether we are working for gender equality, in the global peace movement, or helping individuals to become less violent. What

results then is collaboration, building bridges of research, and a common respect that acknowledges that by working together we can build a synergy from our ideas and produce effective solutions. We will move away from blaming, an often difficult task when one works within a paradigm of oppression, to an enhanced understanding of the issue. As feminists we have found comfort in our certainty about the way the gendered world works. But being certain also closes

the door to new ideas, to hearing the legitimate perspective of others, to expanding our reality. We can re-energize our work by opening our minds to the offerings of other disciplines, scholars and practitioners. The PATHS research gives us a context from within which we can begin to answer the question "What now?" ☘



**Requisites for Creating Non-Violent Communities**

### **Actions to Promote a Non-Violent Society**

1. Pay attention to the child. Changing the world requires nurturing the next generation.
2. Encourage people to think and talk about what values are important to support non-violent solutions to conflict.
3. Explore alternative actions to violence.
4. Call for a fair and sustainable distribution of the earth's resources.
5. Advocate for policies that are grounded in regard for children, fairness, a valuing of education, and a respect for the environment.

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



**May 12–13, 2014 - *Love and Violence: The End of the Fairytale***, is presented by Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre, at the Best Western in Cobourg, Ontario. This an international conference that addresses issues and intricacies of love and violence, and brings together speakers from around the world to speak on various topics surrounding domestic abuse, the law and love. It is our mission to confront the issues and create open discussion and critical thinking on how to put an end to the relationship between love and violence. For more information refer to [www.cornerstonenorthumberland.ca](http://www.cornerstonenorthumberland.ca) or contact **Janelle Eisler** at **905–372–1545, ext. 236**.

**May 13–15, 2014 - *14th annual Missing and Exploited Children Conference (MECC)*** presented by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The goal of this three-day training conference is to broaden the knowledge of those involved in child protection surrounding the issues of missing and exploited children. One of the leading conferences of this type in Canada, the MECC provides training by expert speakers from around the world on a wide range of issues. With the rapid growth in online crimes against children, the training needs of professionals working in the area of child protection have changed immensely. An example of topics covered include the detection and investigation of child victimization, how to deal with children in trauma and Internet-related exploitation, as well as offering a unique glimpse into the victim's perspective. Refer online for more information [protectchildren.ca/app/en/training#training-mecc](http://protectchildren.ca/app/en/training#training-mecc).

**June 3 & 4, 2014 - *Family Violence Across the Lifespan*** presented by the Today Family Violence Help Centre, in Edmonton, Alberta. Topics covered include types of abuse; the role of media in shaping our perceptions; safety planning; boundaries and self-care; domestic violence in LGBTQ\* communities, and more. There is no cost to attend this workshop but space is limited, so please register. For more information or to register, call **780-455-6880**, or e-mail [registration@thetodaycentre.ca](mailto:registration@thetodaycentre.ca), or through our website [www.thetodaycentre.ca](http://www.thetodaycentre.ca).

**December 8–10, 2014 - *2014 World Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference*** is presented by Indigenous Conference Services (Australia), and will take place in Cairns, Australia. This event is designed to be the largest international gathering of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people with an interest in stopping domestic violence. The aim of the conference is to highlight and showcase successful programs that have led to decreased incidence rates of domestic violence and elder abuse issues. For further information refer to [www.indigenousconferences.com](http://www.indigenousconferences.com).

### RESOLVE Manitoba Research Day

is **Monday, October 6, 2014**, at the University of Manitoba. Please reserve this day on your calendar and join us for presentations of innovative local and community based research and program initiatives. Our keynote speaker is **Krista Miller**, a police officer who is also an abuse survivor. Service providers and experiential women wonder whether police really understand the dilemma faced by survivors. Police often wonder whether their intervention is helpful. Research indicates that first responders' attitudes significantly impact victims. These issues, along with Ms. Miller's experience of abuse and its impact on her policing, will be discussed.

If you have research results or would like to present some of the new initiatives in your agency or community related to violence please **submit an abstract by July 30, 2014**, to [resolve@umanitoba.ca](mailto:resolve@umanitoba.ca).

The registration fee is \$35 and we offer reduced fees for agencies (register three staff and send as many as you want); students and service consumers are offered free registration. A call for abstracts, registration and more information about Research Day can be found at our website [www.umanitoba/resolve](http://www.umanitoba/resolve).

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



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### Going Digital With Our Newsletter

RESOLVE has decided to reduce the hard-copy production of our newsletter. At a time when more readers request the newsletter electronically, we have an opportunity to be "green" and save on rising mailing costs. This transition will take place over time; the September issue will be sent electronically to all of our subscribers whose e-mail we have. If you are aware that we don't have your e-mail or unsure if we do and would like to receive the newsletter electronically please send us your e-mail address. This summer we will collect e-mail addresses for our **A to G** subscribers. If you fall into this alphabetical category and want to switch, send us your name and e-mail address with the subject title **RESOLVE E-mail Delivery** to our Editor at [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca) or [resolve@umanitoba.ca](mailto:resolve@umanitoba.ca) by August 31, 2014.

If you prefer the paper version we are happy to continue mail delivery and can send copies on request. We will always produce a paper copy but hope to have a smaller run and lower costs at the end of this process. ☘

#### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."*  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994

Agreement# 40063171

## INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE: Old Problem—New Approaches

✂ ✂ ✂  
by Jane Ursel

**T**his is the theme of RESOLVE Manitoba's Research Day, which will be held on October 6, at University Centre, University of Manitoba. Over the last two decades there has been a growth in services for victims and individuals who behave abusively and a great deal of research has been done on these services. From innovative programming in the field of prevention, to the recent YWCA report on new challenges for women in shelters, service providers have been rethinking their practice and breaking new ground in service delivery. While the problem of interpersonal violence remains, service providers and researchers are exploring new ways of responding to this persistent societal problem. Our research day will host a number of panels that discuss recent innovations and will feature a number of keynote speakers.

Our morning keynote speaker is **Constable Krista Miller** from the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, who has the distinction of being a police officer who is also an abuse survivor. Service providers and experiential women wonder whether police really understand the dilemma faced by survivors. Police often wonder whether their intervention is helpful. Research indicates that first responders' attitudes significantly impact victims. These issues along with Constable Miller's experience of abuse and its impact on her policing will be discussed. Constable Miller



is an advocate and an inspiration for victims of domestic violence. She is a Board member of the Iris Kirby House (a shelter in St. John's Newfoundland). She is committed to community outreach and has shared her story of survival in schools and community groups throughout Newfoundland.

Our afternoon keynote speaker is **Ann Decter**, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy for YWCA Canada. Ms. Decter was the moving force behind the recent critical report *Saying Yes: Effective Practices in Sheltering Abused Women with Mental Health and Addiction Issues*. Shelter workers

across Canada have been identifying a changing pattern of women seeking shelter from abuse. There is an increasing percentage of shelter residents who suffer from mental health and addiction issues. The YWCA report is both a call to action and an outline of effective practices for responding to these very

*New Approaches... cont'd on Page 6*

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|                                | 8. Prairieaction Update                    |

## Challenging the Efficacy of *ex officio* Prosecution of Domestic Violence Offenses: The Portuguese and Canadian Experiences



by Patricia Pais

In today's world domestic violence is regarded as a serious violation of human rights. Domestic violence affects women disproportionately and it exists in all countries, irrespective of women's individual characteristics, their social, economic, religious or cultural group identity. Whether by means of honoring their international commitments or via internal advocacy, in the course of the last thirty years many countries have altered legislation that covers the components of domestic violence.

Portugal is one such country. As a practicing lawyer in Portugal I assisted in the transformation in the criminal justice system as comprehensive legislation was adopted to address domestic violence over the last 14 years. The national plan involved the creation of domestic violence units in the police and public prosecutor offices; the expansion of shelters for victims; the adoption of the victim's bill of rights; and the development of preventive programs for perpetrators of domestic violence. Also, laws enacted in 2000 and 2007 amended the domestic violence offence typified in the penal code. The amendments reclassified the offence, extended the concept of violence, and introduced accessory penalties. The reclassification of domestic violence to a public crime in 2000 warranted an *ex officio* approach, i.e., reported cases must be investigated and prosecuted regardless of the victim's wishes. Victims, however, cannot be compelled to testify as the code of penal procedure grants to spouses and intimate partners the right to refuse to testify.

While there has been significant progress with the application of an *ex officio* approach, gaps in implementation remain, with low numbers of prosecutions and convictions compared to the number of reported cases. This became clear to me when in January 2010 I was appointed a public prosecutor to a region in Portugal particularly affected by this plight. Victim's refusal to cooperate and testify led in many instances to insufficient evidence to prosecute or

secure a conviction. Researching the implementation of similar approaches in other jurisdictions, I found successful stories in the United States and Canada. Such findings gave me the impetus to venture once again into academic life. I proposed a PhD project that examined the adoption and implementation of *ex officio* approaches in adversarial and inquisitorial systems; this project that was accepted by the University of Queensland, Australia.

Electing Portugal as my inquisitorial case study was an obvious choice. However, electing Manitoba as the adversarial setting was the result of a variety of factors: the positive reports on Winnipeg's response to domestic violence, the existence of RESOLVE, and most importantly the invaluable support of **Dr. Jane Ursel**.

My journey in Winnipeg exceeded my expectations in every possible way. Apart from the kind help provided by **Prof. Karen Busby** and **Donna Sikorsky** re doctrinal research, I was able to collect crucial data from interviews

conducted with key actors in the criminal justice system, and to observe the operation of a criminal justice system completely alien to me. I concluded that despite the implementation of similar approaches, the Manitoba's adversarial process leads to a higher rate of prosecutions and convictions than the Portuguese inquisitorial process. Yet, as revealed by the data collected in Porto (Portugal) and Winnipeg, criminal justice key actors in both sides of the Atlantic share a similar commitment to ensure a successful outcome, that, being proper administration of justice while securing the victim's well-being.

As I explore in my PhD studies, I am finding that a similar approach in different jurisdictions may lead to different outcomes. Comparative studies can assist in pinpointing potential factors that can explain disparate outcomes and consequently improve the response of society to the epidemic that is domestic violence. ❧



Patricia Pais

## Manitoba Update: *Is Justice Delayed, Justice Denied?*



by Jane Ursel



**W**hen we think of legal responses to domestic violence we typically think of laws or policies, and we seldom think of administration. Recently I have had the opportunity to study the administration of the Winnipeg Family Violence Court (FVC), thanks to a three year funding grant from the Max Bell Foundation. How a court is administered, I discovered, can have a significant impact on the lives of people involved in the courts. A faster disposition of a case may reduce stress on the family members involved; better administration can facilitate a prosecutor's case; and better information can lead to better case dispositions. The new administration plan referred to as the Front End Project (FEP) was designed to get cases through court faster and introduce more efficient use of courtrooms and court personnel. In an earlier issue of this newsletter (Vol 8 # 3 2006), I wrote an article on the FEP's receipt of the United Nations Public Service Award. I was curious to see, a number of years later, whether the original goals were being met and whether there were unexpected challenges or rewards.

The study involved looking at the data from our longitudinal FVC study, particularly the timelines from beginning to end of a case and conducting key informant interviews. I interviewed four judges, four Crown attorneys, two defense lawyers, three court administrators, and two victim service workers—all of whom had worked in the courts before and after the FEP was introduced.

Results from our quantitative data on the first goal results—faster case processing—were a bit mixed. Cases that went to trial did not have their matters resolved any faster; however, there was a considerable reduction of 101 days or (33%) for cases that were stayed. Cases that ended in a guilty plea

also experienced a time reduction of 25 days for out of custody cases and ten days for persons held in custody. Finally, the evidence on more efficient use of courtrooms indicated clear success in this area.

Perhaps the most impressive result was the move to Crown ownership of a file, which was only possible within the FEP administrative system. This means that the prosecutor keeps the same file, so if a family returns to court at a later date the Crown attorney knows their history and their challenges and can present a fuller picture of the case to the judge. The following quote from a Crown attorney who was a key informant captures this outcome:

*I recall one woman . . . who came to court . . . and was addressing the judge, asking for contact with the accused. I was indicating that (contact) should not be a part of the disposition. Part of the probation order should include a no contact order because she wasn't in the best position currently to assess the risk. For a variety of reasons the judge ordered it (no-contact). When I went out of the court room, she asked to speak to me privately in the witness room, so we went into this room. I was waiting for the barrage, the blast. But she hugged me and thanked me and said she'd been feeling such pressure from his family to come and felt guilty about doing it....(she) was so glad that I had known her well enough....to put the situation in context before the court that allowed the no contact order to be put in place." (Crown 2)*

Public discourse on justice seldom includes discussions of administration. However, this study opened my eyes to the fact that administration, like house work, is the invisible scaffold that supports human actions and critical social activities. When we examine justice for victims of domestic violence we shouldn't overlook the administrative process. ☘



## Saskatchewan Update: *Rural*



by Alexis Zederayko

**M**y work with the Community–University Research Alliance (CURA) began in January of 2014, when I was hired as a student researcher to perform qualitative analysis on data gathered throughout northern and rural Saskatchewan. The data consisted of a series of interviews with service providers for victims of intimate partner violence (IPV), in which they were asked to discuss the supports available (or absent) for women who seek to escape abusive relationships. The goal of the portion of the research that my peers and I tackled was to provide narratives for the themes (codes) that had emerged during community collaboration sessions in which the data was reviewed. The narratives needed to be many things: concise, accurate and, most importantly, consistent with the data in a way that reflected the voices and intentions of participants.

This last goal was no simple feat, particularly given that the data represented 28 distinct voices, who sometimes provided contradictory information. There was leeway for us to expand on the codes, and to rearrange them, but it was important that they still reflect the efforts accomplished through community collaboration, so adhered to the original themes. The central and overarching theme that emerged was safety, and other themes (education, legal/police intervention, community buy–in, etc.) contributed to it. Because we wanted to retain as much of the original work as possible, we only made changes to the original organization when it was dictated by the data. For example, the theme of “poverty” was moved under the sub–category of “lack of resources” so that it could be grouped with the other resources that were listed as absent or lacking, such as shelters, transportation, childcare, and employment.

I had the privilege of working closely with two other dedicated students—**Melissa Wuerch** and **Kaitlyn Giles**. Not only was it useful to be able to learn the qualitative software together and to benefit from each others research experience, it was helpful for us to have each other to use as sounding boards for ideas, or as resources to check the wording of a code definitions if we were stuck on phrasing. In this way we were



Alexis Zederayko

better able to sort out the nuances and inconsistencies that arose during coding. For example, we often had to review our organization of codes to ensure that conceptually similar codes were grouped together, and that categories were appropriately broad or narrow to maximize utility while eliminating overlap. To come up with definitions for the codes, we looked to the data, and tried to allow it to speak for itself. While this process may sound straightforward (as we thought it would be at the outset), it ended up being more difficult than anticipated, since coming up with codes and definitions that exhaustively represented the data’s central themes required considerable coordination among team members. We needed to ensure that we weren’t coding for the same things (mutual exclusivity)—many hours were spent discussing and clarifying categories over java in a café near Campus grounds.

The result was a 58 page document that outlined each theme and provided examples drawn from the data it supported. Our hope was that these examples would not only demonstrate how the themes manifested by allowing the participant voices to speak for themselves, but also we wanted a document that allowed interested parties to access information in the data in a way that humanized the people and the stories and hardships contained in the interviews. We knew that it would not suffice to simply list themes and expect readers to connect them to actual events; the examples were chosen specifically because they best demonstrated the frustration, courage, and efforts of service–providers in northern and rural Saskatchewan in the struggle against IPV. The final write–up is a great example of collaboration between community and university, and of a synthesis of the voices of the team–members analyzing this data. The next phase of this project, which includes focus groups in two locations (Kamsack and Laloche) is currently underway. I look forward to seeing what this next segment of research will reveal, and how it will clarify our understanding of existing data. ❀

*Alexis Zederayko will present a portion of the CURA research at RESOLVE Research Day 2014 on October 6. Hope to see you there!*

## Alberta Update: ATTACH Pilot Study Funded



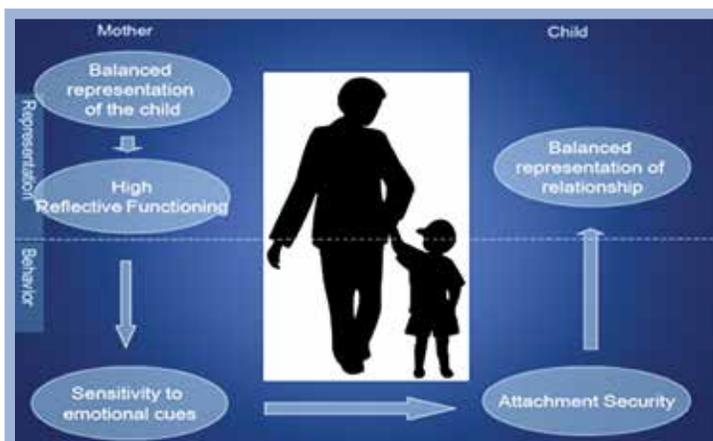
by *Nicole Letourneau*

Since our last update, the ATTACH (Action Team on Triadic Attachment and Child Health) intervention project has received funding from the Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary; the Alberta Centre for Child and Family Health Research; and the Norlien Foundation, Accelerating Innovation Fund. The ATTACH intervention is designed for mothers of infants under two years of age who experience toxic stress—that is violence, addictions, and/or depression.

ATTACH also recognizes and values the support mothers receive from their social network, and thus is designed to include whomever mothers deem to be their co-parenting support, such as a friend, boyfriend or grandparent. Inclusion of the mothers' co-parenting support person, in addition to the usual mother–infant pair, or “dyad,” is what makes ATTACH “triadic.” The main focus of the ATTACH intervention is on development of **mothers' reflective function**—the ability to understand the state of mind of another person, including their thoughts and feelings that underpin behaviours and intentions. This is particularly relevant to parenting infants, as sensitive and responsive parenting requires an ability to reflect upon, understand, and act to address infants' needs and desires. Parental reflective function is thus necessary for the development of **secure attachment** between parent and infant, a relationship representation that the infant can depend on to provide a safe haven and secure base for exploring and learning about the world. Ultimately this kind of healthy, secure, relationship representation may form the basis for expectations about future relationships and social competencies in childhood, adolescence and adulthood. (See *image on this page*.) Meta-analyses of research reveal that secure infant attachment is linked to a host of healthy social-emotional outcomes and reduced risk for externalizing (e.g. aggression, hyperactivity) and internalizing (anxiety, depression), behavioural outcomes, and improved cognitive development. In this way, secure infant attachment is thought to reduce the risk of becoming engaged in violent relationships.

Parenting programs specifically designed for promotion of reflective function are few; even fewer have been subjected to randomized controlled trials. The creator of one such program—*Mothering from the Inside Out*—has demonstrated improvements in parent–infant interaction quality and maternal reflective function. The

creator of this program, **Dr. Nancy Suchman** and her research coordinator, **Cindy DeCoste** of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, recently provided three days of training to our team in the implementation of reflective function intervention. The ATTACH team also met with **Dr. Diane Philipp** of the Hincks–Dellcrest Centre in Toronto, who is implementing Reflective Family Play, and accustomed to engaging with mothers, infants and mothers' co-parenting support.



Reproduced with permission from the presentation by Dr. Nancy Suchman, April 2014

ATTACH is combining and adapting elements from both programs in our innovative, unique 12-week program that will be delivered in collaboration with Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS). Thanks are due to CUPS' outstanding leadership, provided by **Carlene Donnelly**, *Executive Director*, and **Dean Schroeder**, *Director*, for working with us on this parenting program innovation. Mothers who are clients of CUPS and already taking part in a CUPS parenting program (that does not address reflective function) will be invited to take part in the ATTACH pilot randomized controlled trial. Parents who agree to participate will have an equal chance of being invited to take part in the ATTACH intervention or a control condition. Ethics approval is pending and we look forward to updating the RESOLVE network and the Canadian Attachment Network (established for this project) about our progress.

For more information, contact ATTACH Research Associate, **Dr. Martha Hart**, at [mhart@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mhart@ucalgary.ca).

References available upon request.

*New Approaches...* cont'd from Page 1

Ann Decter

complex and challenging issues. She will be introduced by the Minister of Family Services and Status of Women, the **Honourable Kerri Irvin Ross**, who shares Ms. Decter's concern for providing the best services for women in shelter.

Ann Decter leads national campaigns, issue advocacy, research, and policy development for YWCA Canada. A feminist and equity advocate, Ann initiated the *Homes for Women Campaign* to end women's homelessness in 2013 and wrote *When There's No Place Like Home: A Snapshot of Women's Homelessness in Canada* (2012). She works nationally and internationally on violence against women and girls through YWCA Canada and the World YWCA, including leading the annual Rose Campaign to end violence against women. Ann's previous advocacy roles include anti-poverty work at Sistering, an award-winning women's agency, and Campaign 2000, Canada's national coalition to end child and family poverty. The author of four books, she is a member of The Writers Union of Canada.

Over 30 academics and practitioners will participate in 12 or more concurrent sessions. If you have an interest in the latest strategies that concern Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women, there is a panel of activists who will share their views. You will have an opportunity to hear about new developments in treatment programs for individuals who behave abusively, to learn about diversion programs for accused, and to hear the views of participants of these programs. There will be sessions on shelter workers and community initiatives for change as well as sessions that focus on the themes of parenting and justice. There will also be a series of sessions describing the discrepancy between incidents of abuse and services available in rural and Northern communities. We will have speakers from Newfoundland to the North West Territories and many local service providers to look at new ways to solve the old and persistent problem of interpersonal violence. ☘

**INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE:  
OLD PROBLEM—  
new approaches**

**RESOLVE RESEARCH DAY  
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**

**OCTOBER 6 2014  
UMANITOBA.CA/RESOLVE**

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



**October** - *National Domestic Violence Awareness Month* presented by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The goal of this three-day training conference is to broaden the knowledge of those involved in child protection surrounding the issues of missing and exploited children. One of the leading conferences of this type in Canada, the MECC provides training by expert speakers from around the world on a wide range of issues. With the rapid growth in online crimes against children, the training needs of professionals working in the area of child protection have changed immensely. An example of topics covered include the detection and investigation of child victimization, how to deal with children in trauma and Internet-related exploitation, as well as offering a unique glimpse into the victim's perspective. Refer online for more information [protectchildren.ca/app/en/training#training-mecc](http://protectchildren.ca/app/en/training#training-mecc).

**November** - *Family Violence Prevention Month*. November is Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta. Reach out to those affected by family violence. The 24-hour Family Violence Info Line (403-310-1818) is toll-free in Alberta and available seven days a week. The line provides help in more than 170 languages. We all have a role to play in ending family violence; that's the focus of the government's 2014 Family Violence Prevention Month campaign. Learn how you can get involved. Source: [humanservices.alberta.ca/abuse-bullying/15676.html](http://humanservices.alberta.ca/abuse-bullying/15676.html).

**November 1-19, 2014** - *19 Days of Activism Prevention abuse and violence against Youth/Children* a Women's World Summit Foundation initiative. For more information refer online to [19days.woman.ch/index.php/en/](http://19days.woman.ch/index.php/en/).

**November 25** - *International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women*

### RESOLVE Manitoba Research Day: October 6, 2014

This year's Research Day will be held at the University of Manitoba. Please reserve this day on your calendar and join us for presentations of innovative local and community based research and program initiatives. Our morning keynote speaker is **Constable Krista Miller**, a police officer who is also an abuse survivor. In the afternoon **Ann Decter**, responsible for the recent YWCA repost on women's shelters, will present their findings, and the final panel of the day will address the issue of Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women. Concurrent panels on diverse subjects will occur throughout the day.

The registration fee is \$35, and we offer reduced fees for agencies (register three staff and send as many as you want); students, service consumers, and volunteers are offered FREE registration. Registration and more information about Research Day can be found at our website [umanitoba.ca/centres/resolve/news/research\\_days/index.html](http://umanitoba.ca/centres/resolve/news/research_days/index.html).

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



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Board of Members of Prairieaction Foundation are pleased to announce the recipients of our 2014 Community Action Research and Education (CARE) grants. The CARE Grant program furthers the goals of Prairieaction by supporting community-based research, whose goal is to provide education and awareness in the intervention and prevention of domestic violence. This year we have provided funds to Family Service Regina, the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, and the Provincial Association of Transition Houses of Saskatchewan. We wish them success in their research programs. Later this fall we will place our call for letters of intent for the 2015 CARE grants. Please watch for this announcement on our website.

Under our Education & Awareness Grants program we have awarded a grant to Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon. They wish to reprint their educational guide, ***Survivor 101: A Handbook for Teens***, to make available to youth and agencies involved in working with youth. **Lisa Broda**, who held the position of Vice Chair, will assume the role of Chair, while Rod McKendrick takes a leave of absence from the Board. She will assume full duties of Chair until our Annual General Meeting in December 2014. We also wish to welcome to our board three newly appointed Board Members: **Debra George** from Regina, Saskatchewan; **Rekha Malaviya** from Winnipeg, Manitoba; and **Greg Preston** from Calgary, Alberta. We are pleased and honoured to have them join our board and we look forward to their skills and experience to further the goals of the Foundation. ☘

### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."*  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994

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## **INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE: Old Problem, New Approaches**



*by Linda Duffett-Leger, RESOLVE Alberta Steering Committee Member*

**A**s we near the end of Alberta's Family Violence Prevention Month and another year, this seems an appropriate time to reflect on what we know about the impact of interpersonal violence (IPV), and what research opportunities lay ahead. On October 16, one of a series of workshops on Reforming the Family Justice System was held in Alberta in recognition of the need for system-wide improvements in how the justice system approaches the needs of women and families affected by IPV. Evidence suggests that many women exposed to IPV seek help from the criminal justice system in Canada. What do we know about the experiences of IPV survivors within the justice system in Canada?

Our published paper, *Mothers Affected by Domestic Violence: Intersections and Opportunities with the Justice System*, reports the findings of a secondary analysis from two qualitative studies that explore interactions of mothers, exposed to intimate partner violence (IPV), within the justice system. Results suggested that while participants reported some positive interactions within the justice system—such as compassionate interactions with service providers who made them feel supported, validated and empowered—these interactions were not the norm and were often attributed to chance encounters. Overwhelmingly, however, women encountered negative experiences, such as cynical attitudes and ineffectual practices within convoluted bureaucratic criminal justice systems, which left them feeling re-victimized. Participants in both studies described the slow moving, largely disconnected and grossly under-resourced justice system, and the lack of accountability for abusers, leaving women economically responsible for the well-being of their

children.

Findings of these two studies clarify the need for greater efficiencies within the justice system and improved training for service providers in an effort to facilitate women's abilities to access appropriate services for themselves and their families. IPV survivors report a strong need for psychological support. However, court-based systems fall short in that mental health support is often limited and requires specially-trained counselors. Overall, women in these two studies recommended such improvements as an easily accessible network of resources, which would make it easier for them to navigate services, and a mechanism for them to connect with other women with shared experiences, which highlights the importance of social support. In this information era, the Internet plays an increasingly important role in help-seeking and social support. Online support may provide abused women with the anonymity they require to reach out for help, particularly in rural communities. Opportunities exist for researchers to consult with IPV survivors in the development of social network sites and web-based health-education communication technologies to better support their needs.

*Interpersonal Violence... cont'd on Page 6*

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## Drag the Red



© Alison Newall

*In Winnipeg,  
the stalwart women grieve,  
draw on long, strong roots,  
and cast their nets for a harvest of sorrow.  
Where are our sisters, daughters, mothers?  
Vanished into an indifferent landscape.*

*Once they sang, loved, hoped.  
Now, only silence, a festering absence.*

*Once these women wove a cradle  
for the people from their hair,  
once were the vibrant,  
sacred heart of their land.*

*Now, that gift unrecognized, erased,  
they lift urgent voices:*

*Drag the Red.  
Reclaim the disappeared  
Bring home the broken bodies of our sisters  
so we can make them whole again,  
with love*

## Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

**M**anitoba's RESOLVE Research Day, titled *Interpersonal Violence: Old Problems, New Approaches*, attracted 420 registrants, with half the registration from community agencies—their staff, volunteers and program participants. In addition to presentations from 30 researchers and service providers in nine concurrent sessions we had three keynote events. In the morning **Constable Kristy Miller** gave a compelling talk on her journey from domestic assault victim, to survivor, to police officer assisting women caught in the terrible cycle of violence. In the early afternoon **Ann Decter** spoke about the results of the YWCA's critical study of the challenges of sheltering women escaping domestic violence who also struggle with serious mental health and addictions issues.

A sombre note and a call for reflection was provided by the final keynote event, a panel on missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. The panelists, **Nahanni Fontaine**, **Bernadette Smith** and **Diane Redsky**, spoke of the long dismissed history of colonialism and racism that has left all of us with a tragic legacy of extreme violence towards Aboriginal women and girls. Bernadette's moving story of her sister **Claudette Osborne**, missing since 2008, inspired the poem by **Alison Newall** featured on Page 2. One month later we were shocked and horrified by the ordeal of **Rinelle Harper**, beaten and assaulted and left for dead in the freezing Assiniboine River. Amazingly, Rinelle survived, and two men accused of her assault have been arrested. The stories of the 1,200 murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls—along with Rinelle Harper's recent ordeal—demand a new approach to combat such vicious targeting of Aboriginal women and girls. While Canadians debate whether we need a National Roundtable or a National Inquiry, it is clear the assault on Aboriginal women and girls is deeply embedded in our history, our institutions and our psyche.... there is no single solution. Violence against Aboriginal women and girls is a complex social problem based on a deep historical racial divide that calls for responses and reforms at all levels of society. Over the last decade, Aboriginal women and the families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls have organized to guide us in making much needed changes. Voices of families who have lost a daughter/ sister/, mother and the panelists at our Research Day, instruct us that while it may be individuals who commit these atrocities, they are a product of our society and our entire community must be responsible for changing a system which gives rise to this racialized victim-perpetrator dynamic. As we approach December 6, our national memorial day for the victims of the École Polytechnique massacre, we must make the connection between the violence against women of all races, and the particular vulnerability of Aboriginal women and girls. For those of us who are not Aboriginal we must understand that it is our problem not just 'theirs,' so that we can work together to end this national horror. ❧

## Saskatchewan Update: Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence



by Darlene Juschka

**S**askatchewan's research group determined two locations—one rural and one northern—for follow-up focus group interviews with service providers. Researcher **Wendee Kubik** with **Erin Knuttila**, her student assistant, facilitated the rural focus group, while **Darlene Juschka** with **Kaitlyn Giles**, also a student assistant, facilitated the northern focus group. The focus group method was used as it allows researchers and interviewees to conduct a more complex and nuanced conversation. Participants, rather than directly answering our questions, were positioned to develop a group narrative concerning Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), thereby providing a multi-layered narrative.

The first focus group was held in a rural location in August in a south-east area of Saskatchewan. The town, with a population of less than 2000, is located close to the Manitoba border, and has several First Nation reserves in the area. Conducted over the lunch hour, the group consisted of seven participants who represented a variety of local IPV services.

Participants noted that there are many barriers for women who live in the area, and that there is a great need for more resources. Rural shelters are often at their capacity, while there often is no second-stage housing available. These barriers have a negative impact on women who seek assistance.

Additionally, the cost of rent in the town and nearby area is very high. An issue with transportation (or lack thereof) was a dominant theme that was mentioned several times. Participants noted that violence was normalized, and that many times domestic violence (especially on the reserves) was kept quiet.

A second focus group was held in September in a small town in north-west Saskatchewan (population under 3,000). The town also serves a number of First Nation reserves in the area. Nine participants from a variety of IPV services attended. This northern focus group identified many of the same gaps as the rural group, such as isolation, transportation, normalization,



Kaitlyn Giles

and a lack of second-stage housing and shelters, all of which undercut effective responses to IPV. As one service provider commented, the nearest shelter is four hours away and often full:

*"I have never successfully gotten a women fleeing domestic violence into a safe shelter, because by the time there's a bed available, she's gone."*

Normalization of Intimate Partner Violence was also a subject of discussion. When IPV is a common occurrence it becomes normalized, and therefore unremarkable and unnecessary to remark on:

*"...a couple of weeks ago I was walking out of work...there was a guy beating up this girl and... people are driving back and forth and walking and no one did anything to help her."*

Linked to normalization is the shame that is attached to IPV. Shame silences and blinds leaving victims of violence to endure shame and isolation if they reach out for help:

*"...you have a girl that's 16/18 years old; she's by herself to testify at a sexual assault trial against an offender who's got his father, mother, sister, uncles, cousins."*

Needs mentioned in both locations included more education programs, especially in the schools; a branching out of services; programs for men; and a reduction in wait times for addiction programs. Safety and security and communications issues were prevalent. Service providers also noted that some women feared social services, as they could lose their children. As well, although there was general frustration with the lack of monetary and government support for services in remote areas of Saskatchewan, working together in the focus groups participants could share their frustration and discussed ways they could further communications among their respective organizations to more effectively reduce IPV in their respective communities. ☘

## Alberta Update



by *Nicole Letourneau*

**O**ur RESOLVE Alberta Steering Committee has experienced a lot of changes this month. First, we said goodbye to our longtime RESOLVE colleague, Dr. Leslie Tutty. After more than a decade as RESOLVE Academic Coordinator, followed by three years as a Steering Committee member, Dr. Tutty has finally elected to retire from RESOLVE. We wish her all the best in her retirement. We also lost the YWCAs Cynthia Wild and Christine Hall, as they have moved onto new positions. We are delighted to welcome their YWCA replacement, **Heather Morley**. We are also pleased to welcome our newest Steering Committee member, **Dr. Linda Duffett-Leger**, Assistant Professor of the University of Calgary, Faculty of Nursing. Several of our members plan to submit CARE Grants for work on topics that include assessment of the prevalence of and response to violence in the Jewish Faith community, and response of the justice system to families affected by violence. We were pleased to learn that the Alberta Steering Committee's priority interest in the Jewish Faith community has been adopted by the other provinces as a research priority. In addition to attendance at RESOLVE Research Day on October 5, several Alberta RESOLVE network members also attended the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative Symposium on Accelerating Innovation from October 5–10. Presentations focused on Albertan priorities that include interventions for children in care, and use of assessments of adults' experiences of early childhood adversities (e.g. violence in family of origin) to understand and anticipate intergenerational transmission of family violence and its effects. Many of these topics resonated with the interests of our Alberta Steering Committee and network members and intersect with our funded and anticipated projects.

Our Action Team on Triadic Attachment and Child Health (ATTACH) also received some welcome news, as we received funding from the University of Calgary, Eyes High Post-Doctoral Scholar Program, for a two-year position, valued at more than \$100,000. We are delighted to have successfully appointed **Dr. Martha Hart** to the position. She completed her PhD at Cambridge in 2012, and has worked with the Child Health Intervention and Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Studies Program at University of Calgary, with

a focus on assessment of parent–child relationship quality and attachment. The project also attained ethics approval and will begin recruitment of the first families to undergo the intervention in December. Conducted in close partnership with Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS), ATTACH staff will be housed at offices at CUPS and connect regularly with the CUPS staff to implement the intervention. The ATTACH intervention is designed for families affected by stressors considered toxic to children's development, such as family violence. This intervention is also designed to “add on” to existing parenting programs and address an important gap

RESOLVE Alberta also led a recent application to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Called the *Helping Early Adjustment and Relationships to Thrive* (HEART) project, it is focused on the test of a new program designed for infants and young children at

risk due for neglect or abuse. The project will be conducted in close partnership with the Infant Mental Health Promotion Program, a national advocacy organization. Collaborating Alberta agencies include Bent Arrow in Edmonton, an agency serving Aboriginal families and led by **Cheryl Whiskeyjack**, and

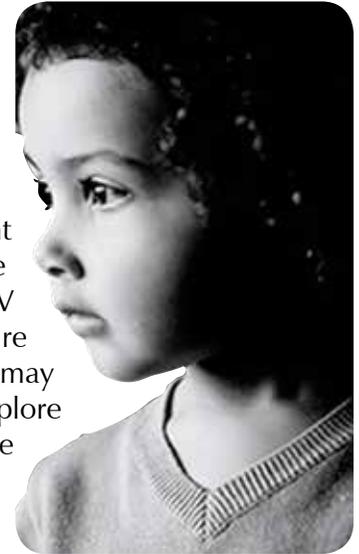
the Louise Dean Centre in Calgary, led by **Holly Charles**, serving pregnant and parenting adolescents. The HEART program was inspired by work of Alberta's Collaborative Mental Health Care Program and further developed by the Infant Mental Health Promotion Program and designed to address and prevent developmental and social–emotional trauma of young children. This program begins with training service providers to understand risks and resiliency factors in infant mental health. Service providers are then trained to use the standardized measures of development, with an emphasis on social-emotional adjustment. From this information, service providers are trained to create Developmental Support Plans, tailored to the identified needs of the individual child and designed to reduce or prevent trauma in early childhood, known to affect neurodevelopment.

In summary, Alberta's RESOLVE continues to make progress in engaging with the community around issues important to Albertans. ☘



*Interpersonal Violence... cont'd from Page 1*

Women are most vulnerable to IPV during pregnancy or the postpartum period, and preschool children are disproportionately over represented in families affected by IPV. Research well documents that exposure to IPV significantly increases children's risks of development of physical and psychological health issues, as well as behavioural problems. Each year in Canada it is estimated that approximately 125,000 new children are exposed to IPV, which results in an annual cost of approximately \$759 million. Although most of these costs are borne by affected families, IPV has a significant impact on overburdened health and social services, as well as the criminal justice system. While it seems clear that there is much to be gained in the prevention of IPV and childhood exposure, solutions may be far less obvious. A review of the literature indicates that interventions that support mothers' safety and sense of empowerment may have long-term benefits for young children and adolescents. Research is needed to explore the experiences of IPV-exposed children within the justice system in order to improve services and to develop interventions that promote children's healthy development. At minimum, we ought to work to avoid secondary trauma from stressful interactions within the justice system for children and their mothers.



Costs of interpersonal violence are significant for those who are affected, which includes the relationship partner and the children involved. Evidence, while limited, suggests a need for community-based research to further explore Interventions that target childhood exposure to IPV. There is an obvious shortage of research and evidence-based interventions focused on best practices that serve IPV-exposed children, and even less is known about interventions for IPV-exposed children from justice-involved families. ☞

*References available upon request.*

## Northern Manitoba Research Network Forum



*by Cheryl Fraehlich*

On November 15, the Northern Manitoba Research Network (NMRN) hosted a forum at the beautiful new University College of the North (UCN) campus in Thompson, Manitoba. This was an exciting event for our northern colleagues who have been working hard to create dialogue about how research can address a range of social issues in Northern Manitoba. The network grew out of two Community Cafés held in Thompson; during these meetings, many issues ,including poverty and homelessness among Aboriginal people, the sexual exploitation of northern youth, and the presence of youth gangs in the north, were identified as needing research attention. NMRN aims to solicit local knowledge through research at the community level, to bring together people from many different backgrounds who want to make positive change, and to help people and communities to conduct effective and ethical research. The network is a diverse group that includes representatives from social service agencies, Aboriginal organizations, local and provincial governments, universities and colleges,

businesses and others.

The forum was organized by **Marleny Bonnycastle** from the University of Manitoba and **Maureen Simpkins** from UCN who, along with other colleagues from these institutions, have been working to promote research in Northern Manitoba by developing collaborative research projects, providing research workshops, working with the UCN Ethics Board, and working with undergraduate and graduate students to strengthen local research capacity. The forum included morning workshops on the creation of an online repository of northern knowledge and research, the OCAP principles of ethical research, and photo voice. The afternoon consisted of an open space for researchers to share experiences and ideas on how different organizations and sectors can start partnering on research. ☞



*University College of the North campus in Thompson, Manitoba.*

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



**November 25 - December 12, 2014 - 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.** November 25—the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women—marks the first day of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, and December 10—International Human Rights Day—is the final day. This 16 days of activism is recognized internationally.

**December 6- National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada.** 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. This day also represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society. This is also an opportunity to consider the women and girls for whom violence is a daily reality, and to remember those who have died as a result of gender-based violence.

**December 10 - Human Rights Day.** The United Nations General Assembly chose this day to bring to the attention 'of the peoples of the world' the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.' This day is celebrated by the international community.



**October 22 - 23, 2015 - Research Day 2015: Intimate Partner Violence: Engaging Beyond the Survivor**, in Regina, Saskatchewan. Sponsored by the Prairieaction Foundation, RESOLVE is a triprovincial research network seeking solutions to violence and abuse. Inspired by our healing wheel, conference topics may include physical, mental, spiritual, and/or emotional healing; abuse prevention programs; abuse in communities and families; community-based program implementation and evaluation; institutional healing (human rights conventions, civil/constitutional). For more information refer to [www2.uregina.ca/resolve](http://www2.uregina.ca/resolve), or contact Mary Hampton or Ann Bishop at 306-337-2511 or e-mail [RESOLVE@uregina.ca](mailto:RESOLVE@uregina.ca).

**Klinic's Evolve Program Launches Family Violence Prevention Video** - Klinic would like to announce the launch of their new video entitled *Lets Talk About Family Violence*. In recognition of Family Violence Prevention month, Klinic Community Health Centre's Evolve program has produced a twenty minute video intended to help Manitobans have conversations about intimate partner violence (IPV). Ending family violence means that every Manitoban needs to be able to talk openly with family, friends and coworkers about IPV. Let's Talk about Family Violence helps viewers have a better understanding of and recognize intimate partner violence; know how they can support someone who is experiencing IPV; and help someone affected by IPV connect to resources. What people know about intimate partner violence could change a life; it could even save a life. Klinic hopes that this video will help keep the conversation on family violence going in Manitoba and increase public awareness. You can view and download the video at <http://klinic.mb.ca/VideoLaunch.htm>.

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



**Prairieaction**  
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Web site: **[www.prairieaction.ca](http://www.prairieaction.ca)**

**Call for Letters of Intent: November 20, 2014 to January 10, 2015**

Prairieaction Foundation is calling for Letters of Intent (LOI) to conduct research that support solutions to violence and abuse. This focus of the Community, Action, Research & Education (CARE) grant program furthers Prairieaction Foundation's goal to support community-based research into solutions to violence and abuse. The Program funds qualifying charitable organizations for research projects that identify potential strategies, models and methods to ultimately eliminate the issues and impact of family violence and abuse.

At Prairieaction Foundation, we believe that results-oriented research can reduce or prevent violence and abuse in our communities by telling us how effective laws and policies, well-designed programs and well resourced community responses can make a difference in the lives of families and in our community.

If your organization or institution is interested in applying for a 2015 CARE Grant, the deadline to submit your Letter of Intent (LOI) is January 10, 2015. For more information, please visit our website [www.prairieaction.ca](http://www.prairieaction.ca).



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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

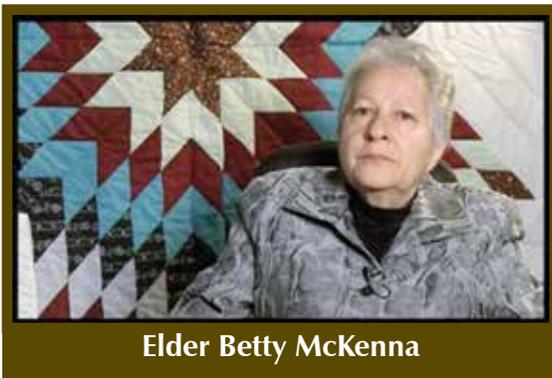
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## Why Do We Offer Cloth and Tobacco to Aboriginal Elders?



*by Mary Hampton and Elder Betty McKenna*

**I**n Saskatchewan our guiding Elder, **Elder Betty McKenna**, has educated us about why we give her cloth and tobacco when we ask her to pray for us at meetings and guide our work throughout the year. On a trip down a snowy road between Saskatoon and Regina, Elder Betty told us about the significance of cloth and tobacco in her culture.



**Elder Betty McKenna**

### **Elder Betty on Tobacco**

This is the first teaching on tobacco and why people give me tobacco. When I am presented with tobacco, it's for me to complete that process in making that offering and prayer submission to the Creator, and also to include Mother Earth in that whole cycle of prayer and offerings. I take the tobacco and I pray over it for seven days and I make that offering to Mother Earth with the tobacco. I ask the Creator to watch me as I place the offering on Mother Earth along with prayers. Mother Earth grew that tobacco - she knows what

to do with it. I only know one way to honour the Creator and Mother Earth and that's placing that tobacco on it. And that tobacco was given to our People as a gift from the Creator as a special way to make that supplication to the Creator. There's a story that goes with tobacco and how our people got tobacco but for now, I'll just tell you about the process, the traditional process of what I do with it. After praying for seven days and placing the offering on Mother Earth, our People believe that all people who were in that circle when I was presented that tobacco are going to receive those blessings from the Creator until that tobacco is absorbed by Mother Earth. Once the tobacco is absorbed by Mother Earth we redo the process again, if need be. The teaching of my People is that tobacco is never to be smoked until you are 80 years old. When you are 80 you're called an Earth Elder. Earth Elders are ready to be placed into that place of rest within Mother Earth at any time, so at 80 they could smoke and as younger people or young children, you were encouraged to go sit beside them when they smoked and pray

*Why Do We Offer Cloth... cont'd on page 6*

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## The Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth: What Do We Know and Where are We Going?



by Cheryl Fraehlich

**E**ach year thousands of children in Canada have their basic human dignity and well being violated through sexual exploitation. Exploitation takes many forms, including child pornography, domestic sexual abuse, sex tourism, trafficking in children for the purposes of sexual exploitation, exploitation through prostitution, and luring children over the Internet. No matter what form sexual exploitation takes, the consequences are devastating. In addition to sexually transmitted infections, early pregnancy, mental health difficulties and academic interruption, children and youth who have been sexually exploited are at risk of gang involvement, violence, sexual assault, and homicide.

Manitoba Family Services and Housing provides sobering information about sexual exploitation within Manitoba. It is estimated that over 400 children and youth are sexually exploited on the streets of Winnipeg each year; thousands more are victimized in the “invisible” sex trade that takes place in private homes and drug houses throughout the province. Although both males and females are sexually exploited, most of these children and youth are female and most are young. Reports from adults who have been involved in the sex trade indicate that the average age that they were sexually exploited for the first time is 13 to 14 years of age. Some were as young as nine years old. A high proportion (70% to 80%) of sexually exploited children are of Aboriginal origin.

Why does the sexual exploitation of children and youth occur? The obvious answer is that some adults have a sexual interest in children. There are, however, a complex web of factors that contribute to the vulnerability of children and youth. A history of colonization and the legacy of the residential school system, racism, marginalization, and social and cultural isolation place children at greater risk for falling prey to people who wish to exploit them.

We know that a lack of education, poverty, poor and crowded housing conditions, and past trauma also contribute to risk. Many of these children are involved in the child welfare system and have experienced violence in their family relationships. Many have addictions and are forced into the sex trade to obtain alcohol or drugs. Being homeless makes children particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation, as they may exchange sexual favours for basic life necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter.



Our understanding of the complexity and tragedy of the sexual exploitation of children and youth is gradually increasing and there is growing awareness of the need to address this issue. Since 2008, a number of initiatives have been developed within Manitoba as part of Tracia's Trust: Manitoba's Sexual Exploitation Strategy. These initiatives include funding for programs targeting youth who have been sexually exploited and for youth who are at risk

for sexual exploitation, increasing public awareness of sexual exploitation through education, and legislative changes aimed at making offenders more accountable. Greater research attention has also been paid to this issue and a number of studies have examined children and youth exploited through prostitution in Canadian cities. However, information is still lacking about sexual exploitation in rural and northern areas. Recently, a study examining the sexual exploitation of young women in northern Manitoba was begun through the University of Manitoba Faculty of Social Work at Thompson, Manitoba. RESOLVE Manitoba is part of the research team examining the experiences of young women sexually exploited while living in Northern Manitoba. An upcoming issue of this newsletter will examine this study in more detail. ❁

Manitoba Family Services and Housing (2008). *Tracia's Trust: Front Line Voices: Manitobans Working Together to End Child Sexual Exploitation*. Winnipeg: Author.

## Manitoba Update: Working Toward More Effective Communication



by Jane Ursel

In the academic world there is a growing emphasis on knowledge transfer, i.e. telling folks about our research results. While this involves conference presentations and academic journal articles it is increasingly important to communicate to the public at large. This is particularly the case for RESOLVE because of our commitment to working with, and for, the community. Last spring I attended a talk by **Shari Graydon**, of the non-profit organization **Informed Opinions**. Ms. Graydon spoke about how women's voices were seriously underrepresented in public media, newspapers and the electronic media. Her organization is designed to provide workshops for women to encourage their participation in public media. I was impressed by her argument and organized a workshop for women academics at the University of Manitoba and one that RESOLVE would sponsor for the agencies we work with in Manitoba. The demand for registration at the University of Manitoba was so great that we had to offer two workshops for the university, as well as one for the community.

I had the privilege of attending one of the academic workshops and truly benefited from the experience. The workshop was very informative, provided us with some extremely useful skills and was also a great deal of fun—it was the best combination of hard work and laughter. One of the most rewarding experiences was working with women from diverse departments. In the workshop I attended there were faculty from engineering, linguistics, sociology, architecture, law, etc. We were delighted to discover how much we had in common despite our very different fields of work. We were all teachers and researchers looking for strategies to communicate our results more effectively. The other day one of my colleagues wrote to inform me that she had just had an article published in the Winnipeg Free Press. I am looking forward to reading and hearing about more of my colleagues work in our local media. I want to thank Vice Provost (Academic) & Provost, **Dr. Janice Ristock**, our Vice-President (Research & International), **Dr. Digvir Jayas**, and the Deans of all the participating faculties who supported this event.

The media training for NGOs was attended by individuals from a wide variety of agencies including

mental health, bullying and dating violence, childhood abuse, women in the sex trade, immigrant populations, Aboriginal issues, and family violence services. Participants obtained assistance with media-related issues specific to their agencies. Most found the workshop very helpful in dealing with their concerns about interactions with the media; it increased their confidence level in dealing with reporters and writing editorials and provided them with concrete strategies they planned to use in the future. Connections were made between participants to collaborate on making information about media sources available to better guide their interactions and to assist each other with different aspects of media interaction and messages. The success of this event was due to Ms. Graydon's flexibility in responding to participant concerns and participants' willingness to fully engage in the practice exercises and tasks within the workshop. RESOLVE would like to extend their sincere thanks to **Klinic Community Health Centre** for making

space and resources available for the media training event in the community and for being so accommodating. A special thanks to **Ms. Leslie Debrecen** for her help in organizing the event. ☘



Shari Graydon



**RESOLVE Saskatchewan** is pleased to announce that Shari Graydon is offering a workshop for the community, sponsored by RESOLVE Saskatchewan on March 13, and a workshop for academics on March 14.

For further information, or registration for the community workshop, e-mail **Shellie Pociuk** at [spociuk@familyserviceregina.com](mailto:spociuk@familyserviceregina.com).

## Saskatchewan Update: “Shhh...talk about it.”

### *A Knowledge Translation Project in Saskatoon to Engage the Community in Raising Awareness of Child Sexual Abuse and Residential School Impacts*



*by Joelena Leader & Karen Wood*

**T**wo issues that affect the wellbeing of our communities are child sexual abuse and residential schools, the impacts of which can pass from one generation to the next unless they are addressed in healthy and creative ways. Research and community services identify numerous health concerns that result from these abuses, such as depression and suicidality, post-traumatic stress disorder, truancy, delinquency, and substance abuse. However, when attention is focused exclusively on the health impacts, those affected often end up being portrayed as the problem, creating a ‘harm story’ about them rather than focusing attention on the fact that abuse continues to take place.

**Dr. Karen Wood**, an IPHRC postdoctoral fellow with **Dr. Jennifer Poudrier** at the University of Saskatchewan, is currently conducting a community-based project entitled *Circles of Learning, Cycles of Change: Engaging Community in Knowledge Translation Activities Regarding Child Sexual Abuse and Residential Schools*. Funded by the Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research, this knowledge translation project draws from Dr. Wood’s doctoral research finding that for healing to occur, the abuse needs to be named—something that is accomplished by raising awareness about the issue. This approach recognizes the importance of breaking the silence about abuse in a manner that disrupts the harm story. The title **Shhh... talk about it** refers to conversations we have had with participants regarding the secrecy and, paradoxically, the visibility of abuse. What usually gets talked about publicly is not what really needs to be talked about.

The purpose of these circles is to develop sensitive and culturally meaningful educational materials that will raise awareness of child sexual abuse (CSA) and the legacy of the residential school system by engaging community

members in a series of Elder facilitated circles, or conversations. Two guiding questions are explored: “*what information do participants feel they, and others in the community need?*” and “*what is the best (safest, most effective & most sensitive) way of providing this information?*” To date, a community research advisory committee has met for planning and four circles have taken place in community-based organizations.

Engaging those impacted in a dialogue about knowledge translation activities promotes a ‘back and forth’ conversation in which all are learners and all are informants. This dialogue changes the traditional power structures of educator and learner or researcher and researched, in a way that disrupts the power structures that contribute to the harm story. Themes have already begun to emerge, such as: 1) Building relationships across differences; 2) Resilience through humour and creativity; 3) Laughter as medicine; 4) Naming abuse as a path toward healing and awareness; 5) Nurturing Aboriginal and non-aboriginal connections; and, 6) Creating safe environments for people to get together and share their stories.



**Dr. Karen Wood (l) and Metis Elder Marjorie Beaucauge**

At the conclusion of this project we plan to have developed some effective and sensitive means of publicly sharing this sometimes very difficult information, perhaps through pamphlets, music, workshop materials, drama or video presentations. While still in the early stages, it has already become clear that the process of engaging community members who are directly impacted by CSA and residential schools in Elder facilitated knowledge translation circles nurtures a deeper understanding of these troubling and interconnected issues and enables us to create change. ❧

## Alberta Update

### *Forgotten survivors of intimate partner violence: The role of gender and mothering in infant development*



by *Ketan Tailor & Nicole Letourneau*

**This Alberta Update focuses on research conducted by Dr. Letourneau's graduate student, Ketan Tailor.**

**T**he aim of this study was to investigate the moderating effect of gender in the relationship between mother–infant interaction and infant development among intimate partner violence (IPV)–affected families. Children exposed to IPV display more internalizing (e.g. depression, withdrawal, and anxiety) and externalizing behavior (e.g. aggression, hyperactivity; Yates, Dodds, Sroufe, & Egeland, 2003), trauma symptoms (Bogat et al., 2006) and cognitive difficulties than non–exposed children (Graham-Bermann & Levendosky, 1998). While mothering has been identified as perhaps the most important predictor in the development of children from violent families (Mullender et al., 2002), gender has recently been advanced as another important factor to examine. Boys in situations of IPV tend to exhibit more externalizing behavior than girls, while girls show more internalizing behavior (Moylan et al., 2009; Yates, et al., 2003). Sons may also experience less secure attachment to their abused mothers at 12 months of age than daughters (Huth-Bocks, Levendosky, Theran, & Bogat, 2004).

Participants were recruited across three Maritime Provinces (New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia) through agencies that targeted families affected by violence and sources more universally accessible to the general population. Forty–four mother–infant pairs (28 male infants, 16 female infants) agreed to participate in the study. Mothers' mean age was 28.5 years, and infants' mean age was 23.2 months. Mother–infant interaction was examined using the Nursing Child Assessment Teaching Scale (NCATS; Sumner & Spietz, 1994), an observational measure of interaction quality. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ; Squires, Bricker, & Twombly, 2004), a maternal–report instrument, was used to screen children's cognitive



and social functioning. Results suggest that while male infants showed poorer fine motor ( $M = 45.51$ ,  $SD = 11.83$ ,  $p = .002$ ), problem-solving ( $M = 47.55$ ,  $SD = 10.26$ ,  $p = .020$ ), and personal-social skills ( $M = 49.08$ ,  $SD = 12.40$ ,  $p = .014$ ) than did their female counterparts, comparable gross motor ( $M = 53.16$ ,  $SD = 10.24$ ,  $p = .333$ ) and communication skills ( $M = 45.61$ ,  $SD = 14.95$ ,  $p = .355$ ) were demonstrated. Moderator analysis for gender indicated that the association among maternal cognitive growth fostering and gross motor skills was significantly stronger for boys ( $\beta = 3.11$ ,  $p = .000$ ) than it was for girls ( $\beta = 0.60$ ,  $p = .327$ ). No other moderator effects were detected.

The overall poorer cognitive and social functioning of male infants suggests a need to attend to issues of gender and power in violent families. Why might there be gender differences in the development of infants exposed to violence? Male infants may be more susceptible to the effects of violence and stressful early relationships than females. IPV–affected women may also harbor gender-role stereotypic views of child rearing (Birns, Cascardi, & Meyer, 1994; Burge, 1981), or identify their male infant with the abuser. While an obvious target for intervention may be helping IPV–affected mothers to provide more cognitive growth fostering and gross motor skill development opportunities for male infants, general parenting classes will likely be inadequate to this challenge. Rather, increased efforts to understand mothers' perceptions of masculinity and femininity are critical, especially as they relate to IPV. Interventions may be most useful when they uncover women's gender–role stereotypes and phenomenological experiences of how violence has affected their mothering and relationships with their infants. ☘

For references contact [Nicole.Letourneau@ucalgary.ca](mailto:Nicole.Letourneau@ucalgary.ca). The full citation for the published paper is: Tailor, K. & Letourneau, N. (2012). **Forgotten survivors of intimate partner violence: The role of gender and mothering in infant development**. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 33(3), 294-306.

**Why Do We Offer Cloth...** cont'd from Page 1

with them because they were praying as they smoked that cigarette or that pipe. You would pray and put your prayers into that smoke, into that old person. And when they are buried in Mother Earth, just like us putting the offering on Mother Earth, that offering is now in Mother Earth and Mother Earth leaches those prayers that we placed into that old person and sends them forth as we walk on Mother Earth. Because She is so knowledgeable and so brilliant, She knows absolutely everything that's ever happened on Mother Earth—absolutely everything. She knows every person, She knows every tear that's been shed, She knows every footfall. Absolutely everything. So when She hears us, She knows what we need and She says to the Creator, "I will give children, small and weak, what they need to get through the day, the week, the year, the month, however we break up our living space on Mother Earth." If we're walking out there some day and we just smell sweet grass and we can't find it to pick it, that's all we're supposed to do, is smell that sweet grass. The smell sets our mind where we feel secure, we feel safe, we feel comforted by that smell of sweet grass. And that's all we needed for that day. We really didn't need to find it to pick it. And so many times we have people who say, "*I can smell it out there in that valley but I can't find it to pick it.*" You don't need to, you just need to smell. And that's how intelligent our Mother Earth is. She knows what we need. She gives us what's adequate for us. So that's the story behind the offering of tobacco and that as children and as young people, we're not supposed to smoke it, because it's traditional that if you smoke it before you're 80, you're inviting death and no one that young should invite death into their life.

**Elder Betty on Cloth**

When people present cloth with tobacco, there's a warp and weft in the cloth and I place my prayers in that cloth just like that cloth is woven. I place the prayers from the four directions and honour the things the four directions give us as I say the prayers for all the people in that room—that they get the things that we need as humans and from the beginning when two-leggeds first stood up on Mother Earth, nothing has really

**Dr. Mary Hampton**

changed for us as two-leggeds. No matter how much technology we get, we will never change as humans. This is the fact and the truth about humans. If we're hurt, we cry. If we are cut, we bleed. We need someone to love and for someone to love us. And we also need to belong somewhere. That's the truth about human beings. I pray about that, all those things that human beings basically need from the Creator and Mother Earth, and then I take that cloth and I hang it in the trees and every time the wind blows, those prayers go to the Creator until that cloth is disintegrated or the tree lets it go. And sometimes the tree will let the cloth go and I pick it up off the ground and I burn it during the full moon ceremony so it goes then, by smoke, to the Creator. Then the prayers are complete that were placed in that cloth. And that's the teaching around our cloth. Even our little pouches - sometimes people give me that little pouch of cloth instead of the tobacco and the tobacco is tied into the cloth and I call them a tobacco tie. Those are done the same way. They are burned in the full moon ceremony. ☸

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



**February 26–March 1, 2013 - Canadian Domestic Violence Conference 3: New Directions in Practice, Research and Collaboration**, co-sponsored by Bridges and the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, Gail Appel Institute. The event will be held at the Delta Chelsea Hotel and Conference Centre in Toronto, Ontario. While centering primarily on men's violence against women, the Conference will also provide the opportunity to highlight conversations that are often on the margins of the domestic violence field. For more information refer to [www.CanadianDomesticViolenceConference.ca](http://www.CanadianDomesticViolenceConference.ca), or contact **Shannon Holcomb** at **416-972-1935**, extension **3340**; or e-mail [sholcomb@hincksdellcrest.org](mailto:sholcomb@hincksdellcrest.org) or [training@hincksdellcrest.org](mailto:training@hincksdellcrest.org).

**February 27–March 1, 2013 - 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters** presented by the U.S. National Network to End Domestic Violence in Washington DC, United States of America. This conference will bring together shelter and grassroots activists who work to end violence against women and discuss how they can support and learn from each other. Unlike many other conferences, WCWS is a peer-to-peer conference, specifically for people who work directly with and provide services for victims of violence.



**March 8, 2013 - International Women's Day – The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum**

Over time and distance, the equal rights of women have progressed. We celebrate the achievements of women while remaining vigilant and tenacious for further sustainable change. There is global momentum for championing women's equality. For events in your area refer to [www.internationalwomensday.com/eseach.asp?country=37](http://www.internationalwomensday.com/eseach.asp?country=37).

**March 11, 2013 - Family Violence Prevention Program** presented by the Government of Manitoba's Workplace Initiative to Support Employees at the Canad Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The effects of family violence often spill over into the workplace. For more information refer to [www.hrmam.org/events/event\\_details.asp?id=291273](http://www.hrmam.org/events/event_details.asp?id=291273) or e-mail [hrmam@hrmam.org](mailto:hrmam@hrmam.org).

**March 22, 2013 - Conference on Holistic Resolution to Family Violence in the South Asian Community** presented by Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS) at the Sagan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall in Mississauga, Ontario. The focus of this conference is to present a model and techniques that are successful in dealing with family violence in the South Asian Community. Keynote speaker is the Honourable Rona Ambrose. For more information refer to [www.pchs4u.com](http://www.pchs4u.com), call **905-790-0808**, or e-mail [admin.brampton@pchs4u.com](mailto:admin.brampton@pchs4u.com).

**May 8–9, 2013 - Grounding Trauma Conference** presented by the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan, in Alliston, Ontario. The Pre-conference will be held on **May 7: Building Bridges: Linking Woman Abuse, Substance Use and Mental Ill Health**. Internationally, there is a growing understanding of the numerous and diverse effects of trauma and unresolved grief on individuals and communities. In the last few years there have been many advances in our understanding of how the brain, the body and emotions are connected. We are eager to explore new, emerging, progressive and creative approaches to trauma. For more information refer online to [abusehelplines.org/?p=1973](http://abusehelplines.org/?p=1973), call **705-749-6145**, or e-mail [gt@cast-canada.ca](mailto:gt@cast-canada.ca).



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## New PAF Chair Rod McKendrick has a Long History of Working to End Violence and Abuse

The Prairieaction Foundation held its December board meeting and AGM in Winnipeg December 7–8. **Rod McKendrick** of Saskatchewan was elected as Chair; **Lisa Broda** of Saskatchewan was elected Vice Chair; **Kathy Ogrzylo** of Alberta was elected Treasurer and serves as past chair, and **Karen Naylor** of Manitoba was elected as Secretary.

Rod has a long history of working to end violence and abuse, beginning with 31 years in law enforcement with the police first in the U.K. and then, after emigrating to Regina in 1989, in Saskatchewan. Since 1996, he has sat as an advisor on interpersonal violence and abuse for RESOLVE. Currently, he works with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, Victims Services, as the Interpersonal Violence Specialist for the province, a position he has held since 1998. In this role, Rod oversees the development of training materials, policies and protocols in the area of Interpersonal Violence.

As a police officer Rod has worked on the front line and at the administrative level. In 1995, he joined the planning and research division, working on the development of policies and procedures for the Regina Police Service, including the procedures the handling of domestic violence and related cases. He was contracted to the Ministry of Justice in 1998, to provide province wide training on interpersonal violence and abuse and to provide expertise on other justice initiatives related to interpersonal violence and abuse. Rod was responsible for the development of the SIAST/ Victims Services Coordination Course, which provides hands on skills for personnel to work with victims. He recently completed the development of the *Guide for Children Exposed to Violence Programs in Saskatchewan* and a manual for front line professionals working with children and youth exposed to violence. ☘

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."*  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994

Agreement# 40063171

## Exploring Sexual Exploitation Among Female Youth in Northern Manitoba

✂ ✂ ✂  
by Cheryl Fraehlich



Oberdorfer sits on Thompson's Sexual Abuse Awareness Team (SEAT), one of a number of regional teams in the province made up of various stakeholders who support existing services and plan new projects and activities in an effort to combat sexual exploitation. One of the goals of SEAT is to raise awareness about the issue of sexual exploitation in northern communities which often takes place in homes or other private locations, and is therefore "invisible". A key focus of the team's work is education. Presentations are made to youth and other groups; youth are informed about acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in a non-threatening forum and are provided with information about help that is available.

With a population of approximately 13,000, Thompson is the largest community in Northern Manitoba. Risk for sexual exploitation is increased within this community because of the number of people who are in Thompson on a temporary basis and who may not have meaningful connections to the community. This includes individuals employed through major construction projects in the area as

***Exploring Sexual Exploitation... cont'd on Page 6***

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## Wolseley Family Place Celebrates 15 Years of Service to the Community



by Pamela Mason

**T**his year, Wolseley Family Place (WFP) will celebrate 15 years of full-time service to the community! An anniversary celebration and reunion will be held on May 14, to recognize the work that has been done and to celebrate the folks who have participated in all facets of the organization's history.

WFP was originally designed as an extension of existing health care services to address the needs of families with small children. Early on, however, it became apparent that social needs had a dramatic impact on the health of young families, so programs were developed to address these concerns. Over the years the family resource centre has approached the topic of violence in the family in many ways—the issue remains on the agenda in an on-going basis.

One of the most notable programs, *Working for Change*, a Crime Prevention Project, provided women with the opportunity to have a voice about crime/safety in their community and to foster feelings of empowerment. Through a series of creative projects women and girls were engaged in a discussion about the factors that put families at risk. There was also a focus on networking with community organizations.

*GLOW* (Girls Learning Options & Wisdom) *Club* was a safe and supportive place for girls ages 8–12 to express and celebrate themselves. These girls participated in fun activities that encouraged them to think. Several weeks were devoted to taking photographs of what discrimination looked like, which culminated with an exhibit at the Graffiti Gallery, complete with a well attended formal opening. The Glow Girls were highlighted on the CBC website for an extended period of time—interviews of the girls articulated what the program meant to them.

THE ZINE was a publication created by Working For Change participants. With articles, stories, art and poetry, this zine looked at crime from a youth

perspective—what is crime, how does it impact youth and what can be done about it?

In partnership with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba and Four Feathers, Working For Change developed *The Fairy Godmother Program* to provide support for women at the community level. Nine women completed an intensive mentorship program designed to give them tools and skills to work with and support others. This program was recognized by A-Channel (CITI TV) on their A-List for its contribution to the community.



Image: **Marny Barnes**—Vivid Intuition Photography

Through Working For Change, WFP was a key player in the community forum *Exploitation in the Sex Trade: What can communities do together?* This forum grew out of community unrest—some inner-city residents proposed drastic measures against the women who work in their neighbourhoods. This day long community forum explored ways in which the

community and social service agencies could work together to make positive changes for the women, men, children and youth exploited in the sex trade. Presenting and attending experiential women were a key part of this forum.

Another community forum convened in which WFP took a leadership position though *Working For Change*. The forum was called *Domestic Abuse: Practical Ideas and Everyday Solutions*. The goal was to increase awareness of the issues that surround domestic violence and to bring together agencies and individuals in the community to share strategies in promotion of peace.

A guiding principle of WFP is that all programs must be participant driven. Nowhere has that value been more crucial than in the area of family violence and substance use—women asked for support to address violence in their households and WFP responded.

**Wolseley Family Place Celebrates... cont'd on Page 7**

## Manitoba Update: *International Scholars Visit the Winnipeg Family Violence Court (WFVC)*



*by Jane Ursel and Cheryl Fraehlich*

**W**innipeg, Manitoba was the first jurisdiction in Canada to introduce a specialized criminal Family Violence Court. Today seven provinces and one territory (Yukon) now have specialized courts. As leaders in the country, we have attracted researchers from around the world to see how our courts operate and what our research tells us about them. Over the years we have hosted guests from across Canada, Australia, China, the U.K. and, most recently, from Sweden. On March 14, **Dr. Margareta Hyden** from Norrkoping University was hosted by the Family Violence Court research team to a morning in court followed by a lunch with the Associate Chief Judge **Janice LeMaistre**; Crown attorney **Jennifer Mann**, from the specialized D.V. unit in prosecutions; and **Pauline Jackson** (Corrections) to discuss the processes and consequences of specialized courts. Dr. Hyden is one of the foremost researchers in Scandinavia studying interpersonal violence, particularly domestic and sexualized violence, and social network responses. Later that day she gave a presentation on her work at the University of Manitoba. RESOLVE Manitoba was pleased to host such a distinguished visitor and introduce her to an important response to domestic violence in our city.



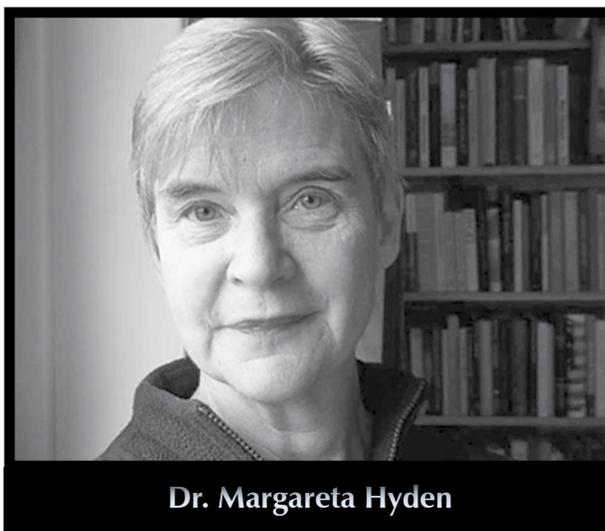
Springtime at University means getting in our final marks and getting our many research projects up to full swing. We are pleased to announce that all of the data from our massive Healing Journey Study is ready for analysis. It took RESOLVE two years to clean the thousands of variables of data and develop a log book which is like a user's guide to each variable. The log book identifies the number of individuals who responded to each question in each province for all

seven waves of interviews, their average response and the history of a scale if the questions were part of a scale. Now that this huge task is completed we see a number of our partners working on reports and publications. The Research Day in Calgary on October 21 will provide an excellent opportunity to present some of the new analysis.



The Manitoba team of the Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence Project is busy working on our second year of research. The project, led

by principal investigator Dr. Mary Hampton of the University of Regina, involves all three RESOLVE centres, and academic and community partners from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories. We are working together to gain a better understanding of the needs of women from rural and northern communities who experience abuse. This year's project activities include interviews with approximately 30 service providers from each province/territory to learn about their perceptions of the needs of women from rural and northern areas who experience intimate partner violence, and the gaps in services that are available to support these women. The sampling procedure for Manitoba allows for interviews with a broad range of service providers from all areas of the province. Our sample includes RCMP members, Victim Services workers, shelter directors and staff, and counsellors who travel to communities to provide service on a scheduled basis. Thus far, the Manitoba team has completed over half of the interviews. We are fortunate to have research assistants in Thompson and The Pas and with their help, as well as the help of interviewers in Brandon and Winnipeg, we have completed most interviews in person. Service providers in more distant or remote locations will be interviewed by telephone. ☘



**Dr. Margareta Hyden**

## Saskatchewan Update: Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence—An Update



by Darlene Juschka

**I**n 2011, Dr. Mary Hampton from Luther College, University of Regina, and Diane Delaney from PATHs Saskatchewan, along with researchers and community partners in our three prairie provinces and the Northwest Territories, were awarded a million dollar SSHRC-CURA research grant to carry out a study on *Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence*. The study is being conducted under the umbrella of RESOLVE and is led by RESOLVE Saskatchewan. The intent of the study is to look at the services available to women who experience intimate partner violence (IPV) in rural and northern locations. IPV takes a multitude of forms, while levels and intensity vary. Furthermore, for those who live in rural and remote areas IPV takes more severe forms, even as women have decreased access to IPV services. This project aims to assist in the development of pathways toward sustainable and violence-free communities.

### Year One (2011-2012)

Researchers and community members came together in June of 2011, to discuss and confirm the way forward. This was a lively meeting and ideas moved around the room as we laid out some of the first steps, first and foremost defining the terms “rural” and “northern.” This is not an easy task when official definitions vary among provinces, while “rural” is a non-functional designation of space in the Northwest Territories. This important discussion, which would determine our research sites, went on for a number of weeks and concluded with the realization that our “rural” and “northern” designations needed to be flexible and reflect northern and rural boundaries on the provincial and territorial level rather than the national level.

Having a clearer idea of our geographical research sites, Dr. Hampton secured IPV incident information from the RCMP for the years 2009 and 2010. Dr. Paul Hackett and his graduate student, Alexandria Werenka, then began to develop the maps that

rendered geographically visible incidents of IPV. At the same time, other members of the research team began to develop an environmental scan of IPV services available to women in rural and northern communities. Development of this scan was labour intensive but was completed in time for our second face-to-face meeting in June 2012.

### Year Two (2012-2013)

The second year of the project saw full development of the IPV incidents and services maps that made visible the geographical gaps between those communities with substantial incidents of and support services for IPV. Using the maps, researchers and community partners identified their research communities. In the first year of our project a thesaurus was developed, which then gave us a clearer understanding of IPV services and the kinds of services we wanted to target for our interviews. After much discussion we decided upon

shelters, victim services (including the RCMP), support services for children, sexual assault support, counselling and mental health services, medical services, religious support, and crisis lines as our service categories. We further determined that we would interview ten each of officers of the RCMP, coordinators of shelters, and coordinators of victim services, for a total of thirty interviews per region.

At the outset of 2013, preparations began for the interview process and interviews commenced in February and March, with each province and territory conducting their own interviews. As the interviews come to completion the visible gaps seen on the maps between incidents of, and services for, IPV appear to be confirmed—services are spread very thin while incidents are high. We meet for our third face-to-face meeting in June, and certainly these gaps will be at the centre of our discussion. ❧



## Alberta Update



by Nicole Letourneau

We have selected a date and theme for RESOLVE's Research Day! Please mark your calendars for October 21, 2013, to attend **Promoting Development & Protecting Health in the Context of Family Violence** at the University of Calgary. Keynote speakers are highlighted on Page 7 in this issue. We look forward to sharing the results of RESOLVE's research with you and hearing about your work!

We have also renewed our Steering Committee membership and agreed to new terms of reference. In this Update we highlight the work of one of our new members, **Linda McCracken**, *Domestic Violence Coordinator*, Alberta Health Services. We look forward to highlighting other Steering Committee members important work in future Updates.

### *Anatomy of a Life Saved*

by Linda McCracken, Alberta Health Services, & Constable Brenda Murdoch, Calgary Police Service CONNECT-Family & Sexual Abuse Network

**S**aving the lives of those impacted by Domestic Violence (DV) takes the collaboration of Health, Social & Justice Services. Providers need to recognize clinical indicators of abuse, provide opportunities for disclosure, be knowledgeable about support options and share appropriate information when danger is imminent. This article relays one such success story, which resulted in a woman's life being saved.

This story begins at the triage desk of a busy Calgary Emergency department (ED) and ends with the arrest of a man who had abused his wife for 17 years and then tried to kill her. Trained in DV assessment, the triage nurse noted inconsistencies between her patient's presenting injuries and explanations, leading her to suspect intentional trauma. Thus, she assigned her patient to a private area where a more thorough assessment could be done. The patient's primary nurse, new to the ED and fairly new to nursing, had just received DV intervention training. As a result, she "asked the question." Though her patient's initial response was "No," in a non-judgmental way she continued her assessment with compassion and caring.

Despite being under pressure to hurry in this busy ED, the nurse was resolved not to rush her assessment. She was building a therapeutic, trusting relationship with her patient, even positioning herself physically so that the patient felt a sense of control in the discussion. Her patient eventually chose to disclose the assault, although as she shared, it was clear that this was not the first instance. The nurse discovered that the patient was ambushed, strangled and beaten by her estranged

husband. Fearing that she was going to die, she managed to convince him to take her to hospital. He agreed only if she promised not to tell the staff what happened. When the nurse encouraged the patient to look at her injuries in the mirror, she could finally acknowledge that she was nearly killed. The nurse re-iterated that the abuse of anyone was wrong, against the law in Canada and that she, the patient, was not to blame. Response options and support were available should she choose. The nurse proceeded to assess the current safety of the patient and that of the ED staff. The patient's life clearly remained at risk.

Together, the nurse and her patient contacted the police. The nurse\* described the offender and his location in the waiting room. Police then arrested the estranged husband without incident and he was charged with attempted murder and other criminal offences. Through an established Calgary collaborative partnership called the CONNECT Family & Sexual Abuse Network, the primary investigator on this file commended the DV Program Coordinator for her work training ED nurses to assess for DV because "asking the question and questioning the story works and a woman is alive because of it!"

Intervention, response and resolution were completed, with health and justice professionals fully engaged. Without collaborative strategies and sharing information, feedback on the effects of universal DV screening would not have been recognized. But above all, the patient in the centre of this story was well served and likely saved. ☘

\*The primary nurse is being awarded the 2013 Calgary Police Chief's Award of Award of Exceptional Recognition.

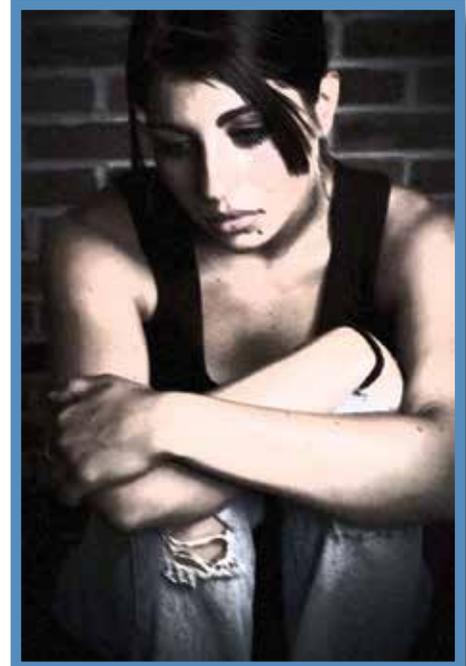


### *Exploring Sexual Exploitation... cont'd from Page 1*

well as youth from outlying communities who are in care or are attending school in Thompson. These youth are often away from their families and support networks and may not be able to recognize that they are in fact being sexually exploited. They may minimize or deny what is happening to them or see being exploited as a matter of survival. Thompson is also home to a large Aboriginal population. The legacies of colonization, the residential school system, and the 1960s child welfare scoop have impacted this population and poverty, a shortage of housing, overcrowding, substance abuse issues, and family abuse may also create vulnerability among young Aboriginal women in this community.

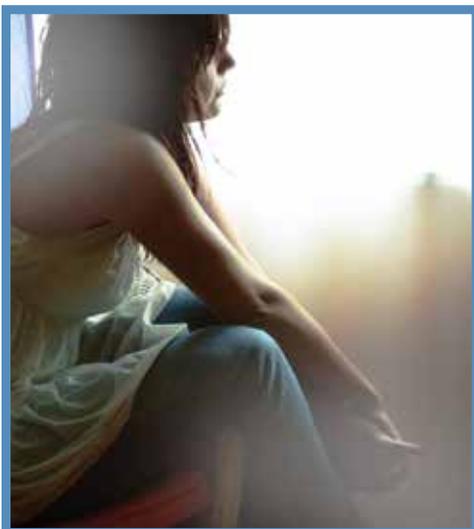
In addition to exploring the sexual exploitation of young women in the northern community of Thompson, the aim of the current study is to give these young women a voice through which to convey their experiences. Many women have never told anyone about their experiences and talking about what has happened may open the door for other women to do so. The specific research questions addressed in the study are:

- What form does sexual exploitation take in this community?
- How do young women in Thompson become involved in the sex trade?
- What are the barriers and challenges faced by young women in Thompson who want to exit the sex trade?
- What services and resources would help young women in Thompson who want to transition out of the sex trade?



Qualitative interviews are being conducted with women who are currently between the ages of 18 and 29 years and who have experienced sexual exploitation while living in Northern Manitoba, but who are no longer involved with this activity. Although the women who participate in the study are now adults, their experience of sexual exploitation began when they were younger. Women have been recruited through notices placed in health and social service agencies and community organizations throughout Thompson. The sensitive nature of this topic and the painful memories often associated with their experience make it difficult for women to come forward. Therefore, recruitment for participants is also being extended to Winnipeg because many women from the north relocate to this urban centre.

The results of the exploratory study will provide valuable information that will help to raise awareness of the issue of sexual exploitation in northern Manitoba and potentially inform programs and services. The information provided by women during the interviews can help to identify the needs of young women experiencing exploitation, to identify gaps in supports and services and to make improvements to the services that are available. ❧



For study purposes, sexual exploitation is broadly defined as prostitution, being in a sex trade, or exchanging sexual acts of any form for food, shelter, clothing, money, safety, transportation, or anything else.

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



**Friday mornings May & June, 2013 - My Mother, My Childhood & Me Group** presented by the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre. A group for women who feel their needs were not met in childhood by their mothers. The focus will be on grieving how we were mothered & learning how to mother ourselves. Women will have an opportunity to share their stories, identify their pain and connect with ways to care for themselves. Limited space. Please call **204 – 477–1123** to register. In-person intake required.

**May 14, 2013 - Wolseley Family Place Celebrate 15 Years of Service to the Community.** An anniversary celebration and reunion will be held at 691 Wolseley Avenue at 2 p.m. An open invitation is extended to all who have been part of Wolseley Family Place over the years—participants, volunteers, board members, funders, partners, collaborators, and staff. Please RSVP to Sharon Taylor, Executive Director of Wolseley Family Place, at [sharon.taylor@mts.net](mailto:sharon.taylor@mts.net).

**June 15, 2013 - Make One Change: A Women's Gathering** presented by the Women's Centre in Calgary, Alberta. The event will connect women from diverse backgrounds and communities: women experiencing poverty, Aboriginal and immigrant women, women living with disabilities, previously incarcerated women, mothers, seniors, community leaders, transgender women, corporate and professional women, among others. For more information refer to [www.womenscentrecalgary.org/get-involved/makeonechange/](http://www.womenscentrecalgary.org/get-involved/makeonechange/).

**May 19 - 21, 2013 - Global Possibilities** presented by the U.S. National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative in Phoenix, Arizona. This conference is designed for professionals working in the domestic violence (DV) field. Topics include DV Related Deaths and Near Deaths; Societal Responses to DV; Working with Surviving Family Members Including Children; Mock Review Exercises; Policy Debates; Latest Issues in Fatality Reviews and Safety Assessments; and Global Violence Against Women. To register and for more information visit [www.ndvfri.org](http://www.ndvfri.org).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

### RESOLVE Alberta Research Day 2013

October 21, 2013

University of Calgary Hotel Alma, Alberta Room

Morning Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Sandra A. Graham-Bermann**

*Professor of Psychology & Psychiatry  
University of Michigan*

*"Reducing traumatic stress and improving adjustment of  
abused women and their children"*

Afternoon Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Eamon McCory**

Co-Director of the Developmental Risk and Resilience  
Unit, University College London

*"Neural differences associated with exposure to family  
violence"*

To register or for inquiries  
please e-mail [resolve@ucalgary.ca](mailto:resolve@ucalgary.ca)

### *Wolseley Family... cont'd from Page 2*

Out of this came the *New Realities* program, where the centre seeks to build on the strengths of the families, and recognizes that family violence and excessive substance use are complex issues. Family members involved with the program define their goals and work with staff to make changes in their lives through personal development work, workshops, and group conferences.

A key factor in the success of all these programs is the essential nature of WFP. Holistic provision of service makes it possible for women and their families to address their challenges from many angles at one time and in one place so that they are more effectively addressed.

WFP has worked with RESOLVE and the Prairieaction Foundation to explore the effectiveness of many of the programs and services related to violence in the family. ❧

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



**Prairieaction**  
FOUNDATION



*We're finding solutions to protect women and children from violence and abuse!*

Phone: **1-877-926-8129** or **(204) 983-1234**

E-mail: **info@prairieaction.ca**

Web site: **www.prairieaction.ca**

### **Sharing our Success Stories: *The role of research in finding solutions to violence and abuse***

Since our inception in 1997, the Prairieaction Foundation has invested more than \$2.8 million dollars in research aimed at finding solutions to violence and abuse. This money has been used to fund the RESOLVE network and community organizations through our two established grant programs—the Community Action, Research and Education (CARE) grants and the Education & Awareness Grants.

We believe results-oriented research can reduce or prevent violence and abuse in our communities in a number of ways, including:

- Helping determine which laws and policies may be effective in preventing violence and abuse;
- Identifying which programs make a difference for victims and perpetrators of abuse;
- Finding which resources are needed in specific communities or within specific targeted segments of the population; and
- Using qualitative and quantitative data in designing and delivering services.

After 15 years of funding research we have accumulated a wealth of material. We are now seeking new ways to share and highlight the results of this investment with the broader community. Beyond the data, we are also identifying the impact of our funding on the lives of people in our community.

**This is where you come in; we want to hear from you.** If your organization or agency has received funding through a Prairieaction Foundation grant, let us know the impact it has had—on the programs you deliver and on the individuals you support. If you have used RESOLVE research to advocate for change, please let us know. If you have a personal story to tell, please share that as well. You can reach us by e-mail at [info@prairieaction.ca](mailto:info@prairieaction.ca) or by calling us at **1-877-926-8120** or **204-983-1234**. By sharing your stories with us, you are helping ensure the Foundation's continued growth and strength. Our growth is what will enable us to continue investing in the research that will help us build a society free from violence and abuse. ☘

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*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."*  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994

Agreement# 40063171

## Towards a Trauma Informed System of Care: Current Achievements and Future Endeavours



*by Tim Wall and Jocelyn Proulx*



### The Vision

Being trauma informed requires an awareness and consideration of the extent and impact of trauma in people's lives. Based on current statistics that report a lifetime prevalence rate of trauma of 64% to 90%, most individuals who access services and many individuals who provide services will have experienced trauma at least once in their lives. These experiences will affect the person's perspective of themselves and the world. A trauma informed system promotes awareness and compassion towards service consumers as well as towards service providers. The vision, then, is to have all care services—at all levels—become trauma informed and respond in a trauma-informed manner. This vision is what has driven the work of the Manitoba Trauma Collaborative.

### The Work

Recently, efforts to become trauma informed have solidified into action in Canada. In Manitoba the

movement began in 2007, with the Forum on Trauma Recovery, where province-wide representatives from physical and mental health, justice, family violence services, government, and experiential individuals gathered to make suggestions about working to increase trauma-informed care. Specific recommendations that stemmed from this forum resulted in a number of activities that have worked towards a trauma-informed approach in Manitoba services. The achievements of the past six years have included the establishment of the Manitoba Trauma Collaborative, a community of service providers, administrators, policy makers, researchers, and concerned citizens who share a commitment to promoting trauma informed approaches in all service sectors and the Manitoba Trauma Information and Education Centre (MTIEC), supported by the Province of Manitoba and situated at Clinic Community Health Centre. The goal of this centre is to provide information resources to support trauma-informed care. Provided resources includes information on trauma and its effects; the trauma recovery process; discussion of the mind/body connection related to trauma and recover; a summary of literature on the neurological effects of trauma and

***Trauma Informed System... cont'd on Page 6***

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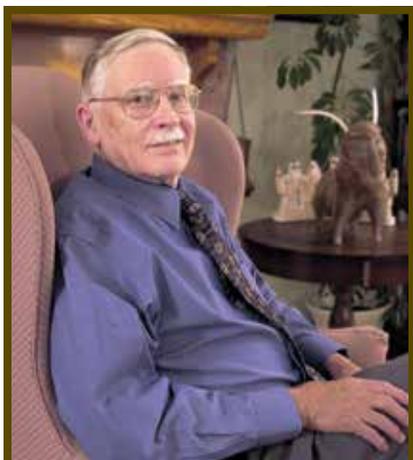
## A Lifetime of Caring It Forward



by Stacy Cardigan Smith, with forward by Jane Ursel

Reprinted from Community News Commons, June 29, 2013, [www.communitynewscommons.org/our-city/a-lifetime-of-caring-it-forward/](http://www.communitynewscommons.org/our-city/a-lifetime-of-caring-it-forward/)

Raymond Currie has been a longtime supporter of RESOLVE. In the early days when we operated as a provincial research centre, Raymond Currie was the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the U of M, and his office provided generous support in our start up days. When we expanded to become a Tri-provincial Research Network Raymond became a board member of the Prairieaction Foundation (PAF) and President of the Foundation for a number of years. In that capacity he worked very hard to raise funds and raise the profile of RESOLVE and PAF in our community. We are pleased to see his efforts acknowledged by the Governor General's Caring Citizen Award this year.



**Raymond Currie**

Photo credit: Frank Nolan,  
University of Manitoba

**W**hat drives us to care? **Raymond Currie** grew up in a caring family, but it was the anonymous financial support he received for specialized education that made Currie truly consider what it means to care.

"I wonder if [the benefactor] has any idea of the huge effect he had on my own life," Currie says. "Real generosity does not require repayment, but it sets up a chain reaction; as a recipient of an act of generosity, I have always felt the urge to seize opportunities to help others while I am able."

Currie has given back in many ways as a teacher, researcher, university administrator, priest and board member for numerous non-profits. His actions were recently recognized by the Governor General with a Caring Canadian Award. Created in 1995, these awards recognize individuals who volunteer their time to help others, building a smarter and more caring nation.

"As I reflect upon it, I am so touched that our society has such an award," Currie says. "It is not for business achievement, academic achievement, artistic achievement, but simply for caring. What a strong statement about a society."

Currie was nominated by long-time friends **Cathy Auld, Jane Ursel, Kathy Strachan** and **Sharon Carstairs**.

"[His] life can be summed up as focused on making

life's journey better for others," Auld says.

Born in 1934, Currie grew up in Winnipeg in a close-knit family.

"He has told stories of his family's quiet generosity, expressed in the depression years by sharing food, lodging and clothing with men who showed up at their door seeking work. The family's income was modest," Auld explains.

Although Currie dreamed of additional education opportunities, the fact he had older siblings made it very difficult. Without the anonymous benefactor, specialized education likely would not have been possible.

Currie joined the Franciscan Order in the 1950s, was ordained in the 1960s, and later left the priesthood to embark on a well-measured life served in the interests of the community. In academic life at the University of Manitoba Currie earned a reputation as a renowned researcher in the areas of urban sociology, religion, mental health, addiction, and vulnerable single parents. He served as the dean of the Faculty of Arts from 1991 to 1999.

Throughout the decades of his busy academic career, and since retiring in 2000, Currie has served on as many as five community-based non-profit boards at a time. He is discerning as to where he places his considerable energy, passion and attention. Motivated by compassion, insight, intelligence and wisdom, Currie has served with Villa Rosa, Prairieaction Foundation, New Directions, Manitoba Special Olympics and most recently Epic Opportunities, amongst others.

Currie and his wife Charlene married later in life and chose to adopt a son and daughter, both of whom suffer from severe mental disabilities.

Currie was one of five Winnipeggers to be honoured with a Caring Canadian Award during the Community Foundations of Canada national conference held in Winnipeg in June [2013]. ❧

## Manitoba Update: Prairieaction Foundation Supports Research in Manitoba



by Jane Ursel

This fall we begin work on a project with Ikwe-Widdjittiwinn Inc. (Ikwe), supported by a Prairieaction (PAF) Education and Awareness Grant. The purpose of the project is to develop a program logic model and a training manual that incorporates a Medicine Wheel model with provincial operation standards to provide a framework for day-to-day practice in the services delivered by Ikwe. Research shows that Aboriginal women are much more likely than non-Aboriginal women to experience family violence, to experience more serious forms of violence during these incidents, and to access shelter services. Most of the women who access Ikwe services are of First Nations descent. The root causes of family violence among Aboriginal peoples is complex and historical in nature, and breaking the cycle of violence requires a holistic approach to service delivery and healing. Although Ikwe is often referred to as an "Aboriginal women's shelter"

and strives to offer culturally appropriate service, an adequate framework describing how culturally appropriate service translates into daily practice is lacking. Following an evaluation of the programs and services provided by Ikwe, and deliberations between the Board of Directors and staff, a strategic planning process was recently completed. A primary goal identified within the strategic plan was the development of a holistic, culturally appropriate practice framework based on the Medicine Wheel that will enhance current programs and services. The training manual will incorporate information on the best policies and practices to ensure a

culturally appropriate framework of service delivery that addresses the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being of Aboriginal women and their children.

Two PAF CARE Grants support the development and evaluation of programs for men who have experienced childhood sexual abuse. In 2012, CARE grant funding was obtained to gather information to assist in the

development of a childhood sexual abuse program for men to be offered at the Men's Resource Centre, a program of the Laurel Centre. Once the program was developed, a framework to guide the various program aspects was selected and applied. This framework was based on a model for sexual abuse programming, but has never been evaluated in terms of its applicability for men. Thus, an evaluation is required to ensure that it is appropriate to the needs of the men.

A 2013 CARE grant

has been given to support this evaluation. This study, entitled *Evaluating a Framework for a Childhood Sexual Abuse Program for Men*, will include a review and summary of other frameworks and models applied to men's abuse related programming and discussions with men and staff about their perspectives of the framework. In addition to this evaluation, a pre- and post-program evaluation package will be developed to help determine the extent and areas of change in men from the beginning to the end of the program. This outcome assessment will be part of an ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of the program and framework being applied. ❧



Ikwe board president **Catherine Dunn** (left) receiving their Education & Awareness grant cheque from PAF Secretary **Karen Naylor** at the Ikwe AGM in Winnipeg on June 19, 2013

## **Saskatchewan Update: Team Members Present Research on the Impacts of Intimate Partner Stalking**



*by Kimberley Zorn*

A limited number of studies have investigated the impact of intimate partner stalking on women targets. This research indicates that current responses to stalking are relatively ineffective despite the inherent dangers to targets. Reaction of law enforcement and other service providers can have a severe impact on a woman's perception of safety and levels of distress. Over the course of the last year **Dr.**

**Mary Hampton**, Academic Coordinator for RESOLVE Saskatchewan, and **Kimberley Zorn**, Research Coordinator for RESOLVE Saskatchewan, have worked in collaboration with **Deb George** and the Domestic Violence Unit within Family Services Regina. The current study, which developed from the above-mentioned collaboration, involved collecting stories from ten women who had been stalking targets of former intimate partners within the Regina area. These stories were then compiled in a way that demonstrated the impact of stalking on victims.

Potential participants were contacted by front line service providers from Family Services Regina, and Zorn conducted narrative interviews with the women who agreed to participate in the study. These interviews were guided by three main research questions: 1) What is the impact of stalking on targets? 2) What were targets' experiences with the Regina Police Service and justice system? and 3) What services and resources within the community did the targets find to be helpful during different stages of their ordeal? Data collection and analysis were guided by Narrative Inquiry Methodology. This methodology was deemed the most appropriate approach for the research questions, as our aim was to hear stories from the viewpoint of targets themselves. Narrative inquiry encourages participants to tell their stories from their own perspectives and in their own words, and allows participants to share—from beginning to end—what they experienced.

Findings from this study were presented in June at the 2013 Nursing Network on Violence Against Women

International Conference in Vancouver, Canada. The project was presented by Zorn, who focused on data that pertained to women targets' experiences with the Regina Police Service and the justice system. Further, preliminary findings on the emotional impacts of stalking were presented: women reported living in a constant state of fear as a result of repetitive exposures to harassment and abuse at the hands of their perpetrators.



*Kimberley Zorn*

The presentation showcased the multiple barriers and obstacles associated with accessing police and justice services within the province of Saskatchewan. A number of themes emerged from the data regarding these obstacles: Women within this sample reported feeling as though their claims of stalking were not taken seriously by police responders, stated that they often had to fight to make a statement, and voiced distrust with the police as a result of how their cases were handled. Themes that emerged with the target's experiences within the justice system include prolonged trial dates, low conviction rates, and constant breaches associated with no-contact orders, added to feelings of disappointment and exacerbated fears associated with personal safety and protection.

The well-attended and very well-received presentation was followed by much positive feedback regarding the importance of conducting such research. An amazing discussion by the academic and community leaders regarding the importance of finding solutions to such barriers, as well as the need for further dissemination of results to police, justice, and front line service providers within Canada ensued.

RESOLVE Saskatchewan will continue disseminating findings from the current study through various academic and community outlets, and Kimberley Zorn will continue conducting research on the impacts of partner stalking throughout the course of her PhD dissertation. RESOLVE Saskatchewan remains dedicated to research in the area of intimate partner stalking through the coming years. ✂

## Alberta Update



by Pradnya Khataavkar

**T**his quarter has been busy, as we welcomed new Steering Committee members, appointed our new Community Representative, created and approved terms of reference, updated our website, and started our Conference Planning Committee meetings to produce RESOLVE Alberta's Research Day. Perhaps most exciting is the line up planned for Research Day 2013!

First, we want to introduce you to our newest Steering Committee members, including **Ann Marie Dewhurst**, *Psychologist*, Valerian Consulting, Edmonton; **Christine Hall**, *Manager*, Quality Assurance YWCA, Calgary; **Colleen Bakker**, *Psychologist and Clinical Supervisor* for Family Violence Services, Alberta Health Services, Lethbridge; **Corinne Ofstie**, *Coordinator*, Calgary Domestic Violence Collective, Calgary; **Lana Wells**, Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary; and **Linda McCracken**, *Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Forensic Studies*, Alberta Health Services-Domestic Violence Program Coordinator, Calgary. Each of our members has already made great contributions to the Steering Committee—you may have noticed Linda's article in the last RESOLVE newsletter. Also, **Deb Tomlinson**, *Chief Executive Officer*, Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services, was unanimously supported by the Steering Committee to be our new Community Representative. We are delighted to have Deb on board with us. Together, we worked to develop expectations for our work in our new terms of reference. Each of our new additions brings unique and valuable expertise to RESOLVE's goals and mission.

Our RESOLVE website was also recently updated with a new and colourful logo and feature information on all the RESOLVE Alberta team members, including the fresh new faces introduced above. We have also posted biosketches for Steering Committee members and RESOLVE Alberta staff members to help every visitor become familiar with the RESOLVE Alberta team. You can check it out at [www.ucalgary.ca/resolve](http://www.ucalgary.ca/resolve).

Perhaps most exciting this quarter is our preparation for this year's RESOLVE Alberta Research Day, which will be held on Monday, October 21, at Hotel Alma on the University

of Calgary campus. If you have not yet registered, please visit us at [events.gobigevent.com/events-web-public/event/start/272;jsessionid=KujYr7iUce-Rx9m6dyFLSCMp?0](http://events.gobigevent.com/events-web-public/event/start/272;jsessionid=KujYr7iUce-Rx9m6dyFLSCMp?0).

There are substantial reductions in registration fees for more than one attendee from an institution. If you are a service provider we also have substantial rebates on registration fees, thanks to our new funders from the University of Lethbridge and the University of Calgary (Nursing and Vice President Research Office). E-mail RESOLVE Program Manager, Ms. Pradnya Khataavkar, at [pkhataavk@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pkhataavk@ucalgary.ca) to determine if you are eligible!

Research Day's 2013 theme is based on the Harvard model of "Promoting Development & Protecting Health" in the Context of Family Violence. Two distinguished international keynote speakers, **Dr. Sandra Graham-Bermann**, University of Michigan, USA, and **Dr. Eamon McCrory**, University College London, UK, will speak on the social and biological effects of family violence on emotional and psychological health and well being.

Additionally, the **Honorable Dave Hancock**, *Minister of Human Services*, and the **Honorable Jonathan Denis**, *Minister of Justice and Solicitor General*, will bring greetings from the Government of Alberta at Research

Day! **Dr. Brent Scott**, Director of Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute for Child and Maternal Health, will also bring greetings, and a representative from the Norlien Foundation will introduce one of our keynote speakers. The work of the Foundation in the field of family mental health aligns well with the mission and goals of RESOLVE and the Research Day.

We have an exciting line up of speakers in six concurrent sessions that cover the Healing Journey project, and studies that address the importance of stable, responsive relationships, safe supportive environments, and physiological adaptations or disruptions associated with exposure to family violence. We will also learn about the link between childhood abuse and intimate partner abuse from our own **Dr. Jane Ursel**.

Come one, come all, and join us at RESOLVE Research Day 2013! ❁



Pradnya Khataavkar

**Trauma Informed System...** cont'd from Page 1

therapeutic approaches to trauma; and a trauma informed tool kit, a resource that guides service providers through a trauma-informed approach. A second edition of this tool kit was released this past summer. MTIEC also launched its website this past summer [www.trauma-informed.ca](http://www.trauma-informed.ca), and the aforementioned kit, along with other resources, can be found at this site.

In addition to these organizational resources, Klinic has developed a trauma informed training workshop that has been delivered to service providers since 2009. Information about training workshops and schedules can be found at <http://trauma-informed.ca/about-us/mtiec-trainings-and-webinars>. In the winter of 2012 – 2013, an evaluation of this workshop was completed and used to guide the development of online trauma-informed training. This online training was completed through a partnership between Klinic Community Health Centre and Saint Elizabeth Health Care, and is a good introduction to trauma-informed practices. This training is available at

<http://www.saintelizabeth.com/FNIM/News/Program-News/All-News/New!-Trauma-Informed-Relationships-Building-Sa-%281%29.aspx>. An evaluation of this online version is currently being planned. With most of the goals outlined in the 2007 forum achieved, a second national forum is being planned for June 2014. The intent of this forum will be to summarize current achievements and identify future endeavors. Gathering information that will provide direction for developing a trauma-informed approach at a more systemic level will be one of the goals for the forum. In addition, the Canadian Trauma Informed Collaborative has been established as part of the effort to effect

systemic change. This Canadian Collaborative will shift the focus from a provincial to a national level. Researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and experiential people have connected and are in the process of establishing a system of knowledge exchange and communication to facilitate the promotion of trauma-informed systems of practice across Canada.

**The People**

The initial impetus for the original 2007 forum came from **Tim Wall** at Klinic. As co-chair of the Manitoba Trauma Collaborative, he and co-chair **Pat Burrows**, formerly of the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, have worked with community agencies, Ministers from the Provincial government, and representatives of the federal government to support the many endeavours of the Collaborative. Their persistence and passion resulted in support for MTIEC, which is now fully operative. **Cheryl Mathews**, **Chris Willette**, **Maureen Rice**, and **Michelle Kreutzer** from Klinic have been involved with developing the trauma informed tool kit and delivering the trauma informed training workshop. **Jocelyn Proulx** from RESOLVE Manitoba, along with **Elaine Morodoch** and **Wanda Chernomas**, from the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Manitoba, have been involved with much of the research conducted through the Collaborative. In addition to these individuals there are a host of people and agencies who have donated time and work to the various projects of the Manitoba Trauma Collaborative. ☘



## Announcements, Conferences and Events



**September 20–22, 2013** - *The 9th Annual Animal Welfare Conference* presented by the Saskatchewan SPCA and held at the Travelodge Hotel in Saskatoon, SK. The conference includes a session entitled ***Cruelty Connection: Animal Cruelty, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse***. Many victims of domestic violence remain in an abusive situation out of concern for the safety of their pets. Tim Battle of the Alberta SPCA will discuss the cruelty connection and help identify solutions for pet-owning victims of domestic violence. For more information refer to [www.sspca.ca](http://www.sspca.ca) or call **306-382-7722**.

**October 15, 2013** - *12th Annual Regina Peacemakers Breakfast* presented by the Community Partnership Against Violence in Regina, SK. More details to be announced soon. For more information refer to [abusehelplines.org/2013/07/18/regina-peacemakers-breakfast-october-15-2013](http://abusehelplines.org/2013/07/18/regina-peacemakers-breakfast-october-15-2013) or contact the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) at **306-522-3515** or by e-mail at [paths.services@sasktel.net](mailto:paths.services@sasktel.net).

**October 21, 2013** - *RESOLVE Research Day 2013: Promoting Development & Protecting Health in the Context of Family Violence* presented by RESOLVE Alberta and held at the Hotel Alma in Calgary, Alberta. This event will build on RESOLVE's past and ongoing research and the Harvard Framework for Reconceptualizing Early Childhood Policies and Programs to Strengthen Lifelong Health. For more information refer to <https://events.gobigevent.com/events-web-public/event/start/272;jsessionid=SLDwDjZZggoVWNpOPLBcO8lh?0> or contact Ms. Pradnya Khatavkar at [pkhatavk@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pkhatavk@ucalgary.ca).

**October 22, 2013** - *Psychological First Aid for Complex Trauma* presented by Partnering In Hope and held at the BTC Indian Health Services in North Battleford, SK. This workshop offers front line service providers with an "intervention map" for working with survivors of chronic abuse and maltreatment. Participants will learn about the tri-phasic model of trauma recovery along with the neurobiology of PTSD, dissociation, and addictive behaviour. The deadline to register is September 30, 2013. For further information contact Jenni Schwab at **306-446-1553**.

**November 14–15, 2013** - *13th Annual Family Violence Conference* presented by Diverse Voices, and held at the Fantasyland Hotel, West Edmonton Mall, in Edmonton, Alberta. Speakers will address topics on community response, relationships, youth technology, multicultural /Aboriginal cultures, and health. The Early Bird Fee, until October 25, 2013, is \$214.29 + \$10.71 GST=\$225. For more information refer to [www.diverse-voices.com](http://www.diverse-voices.com) or contact Cathy Harvey, Event Coordinator, at **780-485-5955** or [cathyharvey@canaevents.com](mailto:cathyharvey@canaevents.com).

**December 10–11, 2013** - *Family Violence: Working Towards Solutions* presented by Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute, Inc., in Regina, SK. This workshop examines different forms of violence within family relationships including psychological/emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Assessment areas will be reviewed to understand the impact on individuals, relationships and communities. Interventions will be explored for working with those who perpetrate violence as well as those who are abused, with the goal of moving beyond shame and hurt to the restoration of relationships and prevention of further violence. Finally, participants will learn specific interventions for promoting safety with children, adults and in relationships. For more information refer to [www.ctrinstitute.com/node/212](http://www.ctrinstitute.com/node/212) or call **204-452-9199**, or toll free **877-353-3205**, or e-mail [info@ctrinstitute.com](mailto:info@ctrinstitute.com).

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**Prairieaction**  
FOUNDATION



*We're finding solutions to protect women and children from violence and abuse!*

Phone: **1-877-926-8129** or **(204) 983-1234**

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## **Prairieaction Foundation Invests in Finding Solutions to Violence and Abuse**

In 2013, the Prairieaction Foundation (PAF) will provide a total of \$40,430 in funding to five community groups across the Prairies through our CARE and Education & Awareness Grants. In addition, the Foundation has provided \$221,000 in operating funding to the RESOLVE academic network.

"Through investing in research, we are finding answers to critical questions about which programs and services are effective in preventing abuse, in assisting victims to find help, and in breaking the cycle of violence for perpetrators," said Rod McKendrick, chair of the PAF Board of Directors. "We connect university researchers with front-line service providers who work with family violence victims and abusers."

Since PAF's founding in 1997, the Foundation has provided over \$2.8 million in funding to the RESOLVE network and front-line agencies.

Information on our 2013–14 grants program will be available on our website, [www.prairieaction.ca](http://www.prairieaction.ca), in November 2013. ☘

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*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."*  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994

Agreement# 40063171

## Alberta's RESOLVE Research Day 2013 A Success!



by Nicole Letourneau

**O**ver one hundred and fifty people attended RESOLVE's Research Day in Calgary, Alberta on October 21. Attendees represented service providers, researchers, policy makers and administrators from across Alberta, but also Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and the Maritimes. Research Day 2013 hosted 32 presentations in four concurrent sessions and covered a range of topics relevant to the Harvard developmental framework on the origins of lifelong health, which outlines policy and program levers for change, caregiver and community capacities, stable responsive relationships, safe supportive environments and how these all affect health across the lifespan (Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University 2010).

Our two keynote speakers were hits, with excellent feedback from attendees. In the morning **Dr. Sandra Graham-Bermann**, a psychologist and researcher from the University of Michigan, spoke about the importance of reducing stress and improving adjustment of abused women and children in her Kids' Club and Moms' Empowerment Program. Results show that the two-generation programs (mothers and children) prevent and treat a host of health problems, including anxiety and depression in children and their mothers and cognitive performance in the children. Her programs are now offered in several languages and in numerous centres in the US, Ontario, and Europe. **Jane Ursel, Cheryl Fraehlich, Leslie Tutty** and **Meghan Woods** provided an excellent follow up to Dr. Bermann-Graham's presentation, describing qualitative findings from the Healing Journey on *The Link between Childhood Abuse and Intimate*

*Partner Abuse*. Using a case study approach, the team provided example after example of women's stories of abuse in their family of origin, leading the audience to hypothesize about the intergenerational impact of abuse and of the huge potential to stop the cycle of abuse by reaching out to families and implementing mother-child programs such as those described by Dr. Graham-Bermann. Similarly, **Christine Ateah** spoke about her work with **Joan Durrant** and colleagues in her presentation *Learning on the Parent's Knee: Preventing the Intergenerational Transmission of Family Violence*. She spoke about the internationally-recognized "Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting" program designed to teach parents nonviolent methods of problem solving in conflict with children in a non-prescriptive and non-punitive way. **Kendra Nixon** and **Colin Bonnycastle's** presentation on *Challenging the Notion of Failure to Protect: A Qualitative Study Exploring the Protective Strategies of Urban and Northern Abused Mothers* underscored mothers' desire to protect their children from exposure to violence, which speaks to families' amenability to support intervention.

In the afternoon, Neuroscientist from University

**Research Day 2013... cont'd on Page 6**

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## Healing Journey Findings



by Jane Urself



**W**hen interviews began for the *Healing Journey* study back in 2005, we had a set of structured questions to explore the participant's experience of abuse in their childhood as well as in their adult years. We found that a large percentage of women revealed a significant history of abuse as children. Furthermore, women also recounted the histories of abuse experienced by their abusive partner. Of the 665 women we interviewed, 57% reported witnessing violence in their home as a child. An even higher percentage of their partners (64%) had the same experience. In addition, 71% of the women reported physical or sexual abuse or both as a child and 60% of their partners were also abused as children. In 2007-08, we conducted open-ended interviews with a sub-sample of 92 women, and asked them to tell us about their life in their own words. Many of these women saw a link between their childhood abuse and abuse in adult intimate partner relationships. At the recent RESOLVE Research Day, researchers **Cheryl Fraehlich, Meghan Woods, Leslie Tutty**, and I presented women's accounts of their abuse history.

One theme that emerged was the normalization of abuse through childhood experiences: *"I'm used to it, the abuse. I'm used to being abused all the time, cause I grew up like that."*

In addition, to learning that abuse was normal, women also learned that it was their fault: *"He (father) tried to convince me that my mom's choice to leave was my fault. That if I wasn't such a horrible, horrible child...*

*everything would have been okay."*

A final lesson was to keep silent: *"I was taught not to challenge what a man said or decided. I did not have a voice as a woman."*

As they approached adulthood, the women often said they were desperate to leave their abusive home: *"That summer when I was 14 I thought, 'well I'm going to look for a husband. I have to get out of here.' So I started searching."*

Adding to the desire to escape was the need to fill a void because women grew up feeling unloved: *"I met him when I was 15 and I just kind of gave my all to him because I wanted to feel love because of the lack of love from my mom and dad."*

Women talked about the familiarity of abuse: *"My father is like my husband. My father is outgoing, a womanizer, and a drunk and that's what kind of husband I looked for."*

For some, there was the fantasy of being rescued: *"I was convinced that there was something magical and I was going to be taken away and things were going to be so much better. I was going to live happily ever after."* But soon the dream became a nightmare: *"I stepped out of one bad situation and into a worse situation and my kids were right alongside me."*

Women saw the linkages between their childhood and adult abuse experiences: *"That's why women who are very loved by their parents don't get so sucked into these holes, 'cause they have something to keep them afloat. But if you don't have any of that, then you are going to drown for sure."* *"It seems like a cycle in my own family, I have six sisters and all of us are each separated from an abusive relationship or there are some that are in a relationship that's still abusive."*

Despite these tragic experiences, it is a credit to the strength and resilience of these women that so many of them found their way out of their abusive relationships and were able to build a safe home for themselves and their children.

We would all like to thank our community partners, **Anna Pazdzierski, Karen Peto, Maria Hendrikka**, and **Carolyn Goard**, who guided us in our analysis.



## Manitoba Update



by Cheryl Fraehlich and Jocelyn Proulx

**N**ovember was designated as *Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Month* in Manitoba, and a number of initiatives commemorated this occasion. Events involved different sectors of the community, and included government and non-government agencies in different geographic locations within the Province. In recognition of the fact that domestic violence affects everyone in society, and that solutions must also involve everyone in society in order to work together, the activities that marked Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Month included and were targeted towards women, youth, and men. Although space prohibits the description of all of these events, below are some examples of what took place.

On November 4, the Manitoba government announced a number of prevention strategies focused on stopping the cycle of violence before it starts. These strategies include partnering with community groups to launch new tools to be used as a part of prevention efforts. One such tool is a poster about healthy relationships distributed to schools, clinics, and community agencies across the Province and which is available online at [www.manitoba.ca/stoptheviolence](http://www.manitoba.ca/stoptheviolence). In a project that involves a partnership between the Province and the **Broadway Neighbourhood Centre**, youth involved in an after-school program at the Centre developed two videos to provide information on domestic violence and healthy relationships. A Government announcement also described increases in funds for programs that are part of the *Family Violence Prevention Program*, and the creation of two new grants for community-based solutions to domestic violence. These grants include one to offer healing programs to Aboriginal women who have experienced domestic violence and another for a community organization to develop initiatives that engage boys and young men in efforts to end domestic violence.

*Voices for Non-Violence*, a program of the **Mennonite Central Committee of Manitoba**, launched the

*Purple Night Lights* campaign on November 5. This campaign invites individuals to bring the issue of abuse out of the shadows by lighting a purple candle in a visible area of their workplace, church, organization, or home, which sends the message that those who are hurting are not alone or forgotten.

The **Men's Resource Centre of Manitoba**, a program of **The Laurel Centre**, has now relocated to 115 Pulford Street in Osborne Village in Winnipeg. On November 19, an open house was held at the new location. **Suhad Bisharat**, Executive Director of The Laurel Centre and Men's Resource Centre, and her team expended much time and effort to select and prepare this new facility. The new location for the Men's Resource Centre of Manitoba offers privacy and accessibility to men who seek services related to child sexual abuse, experiences of domestic and family violence, relationship issues, and other personal struggles.

Although Winnipeg is recognized as the capital of Manitoba, there is "life outside the Perimeter" and domestic violence prevention and awareness events took place throughout the Province. For example, **Women's Safe Haven Resource Centre** in Flin Flon began a *Purple Ribbon Campaign* at the beginning of November. Ribbons, buttons and information about domestic violence were placed in displays in various locations within the community and everyone was encouraged to wear ribbons to show support and awareness of the issue of ending domestic violence. In addition, Women's Safe Haven Resource Centre organized a *Take Back the Night* march against violence on November 25. This event invited women and men to participate in the march to reclaim the streets and call for an end to sexual assaults, domestic violence, and other forms of abuse.

Many more events were underway across the Province and we applaud and congratulate everyone involved in planning, organizing, and participating in these events and initiatives. ✂



## Saskatchewan Update: Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions to Violence



by Tracy Knutson, Provincial Coordinator, STOPS to Violence

**P**artnerships and collaboration are key to strengthening communities, and **Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions (STOPS) to Violence** works to build on those foundations. As a provincial network of individuals and organizations that includes government, community, public and private sectors, STOPS to Violence is uniquely positioned to bring people together to identify issues and find solutions. “Our commonality is our desire to reduce interpersonal violence and abuse and to build healthy, vibrant communities where all people are safe and valued,” explains **Tracy Knutson**, STOPS Provincial Coordinator. Through partnerships STOPS encourages the use of ideas, environments, and opportunities to address issues of interpersonal violence and abuse.

STOPS to Violence has been active in Saskatchewan for over 20 years, with the belief that shared conversation between stakeholders helps identify solutions and take action, which results in greater success than independent actions by each sector. The “STOPS process” focuses on active participation, that builds consensus, and values every individual’s contribution. Through this process, we engage a wide diversity of people from across the Province to build and improve connections and relationships through events, promotion, and shared information. Our members participate in events and activities that help build and ‘recharge’ skills and knowledge, which generates energy to enhance their own work and allows them to be part of an active growing network that creates change in Saskatchewan.

STOPS has developed several resources, one of which is the “Community Connections Plan”, a tool that helps provide direction to communities to develop a consistent, coordinated, and effective response to

interpersonal violence and abuse. The Community Connections Plan provides tools and information for communities and individuals to take action and provides support for victims and survivors of violence and abuse. STOPS has also recently released a revised version of “Getting Out – A Process Learned from the Courage and Wisdom of Survivors”. This guide can be used by anyone who experiences an abusive relationship to recognize the abuse and to plan how to stay safe, leave the abuse, and rebuild once they have left. The guide provides information about organizations and individuals available for help, along with an “Escape Planner” checklist.



Through our bi-weekly eBulletin, STOPS to Violence distributes local, provincial, and national information related to funding opportunities, events, professional development, success stories, and emerging issues to over 450 individuals across the province.

Knutson emphasizes that STOPS to Violence welcomes all who have an interest in addressing interpersonal violence and abuse. “Whether you are a paid staff member, a volunteer, a grandmother staff—anyone—we invite you to join us. We believe in the power of individuals and communities to affect positive change and, by coming together, we can leverage the strengths, knowledge, experience and passion that Saskatchewan people are known for.”

To learn more about STOPS to Violence, refer to [www.stopstoviolence.com](http://www.stopstoviolence.com), e-mail [stopstoviolence@sasktel.net](mailto:stopstoviolence@sasktel.net), or call 306-565-3199. ☞

## Alberta Update: *Reaching for A Good Life: A Program for Men Who Batter*



by Ann Marie Dewhurst, Ph.D., & Karen M. Nielsen, Ph.D.

In 2007, the **Reaching for a Good Life** program was developed to address the needs of men who had engaged in abuse within their families but who were not involved in the criminal justice system. We planned the program based on the underlying beliefs of the *Good Lives Model*<sup>6</sup> of offender rehabilitation. From this perspective, abusive behaviour occurs because people use the wrong means to reach their goals, have a lack of scope about what a good life might be, and have a conflict of goals and/or lack the capacity to manage life without the use of abuse. This program is designed to offer men the opportunity to receive feedback through its four phases, which includes orientation, intake, group modules, and a post-program evaluation. Each group module is self-contained and lasts four sessions.

Orientation sessions give the men an experience of what group might be like and what might be covered in the program. Those who wish to continue complete a battery of psychological and attitudinal tests, including the *Personality Assessment Inventory*, *Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function*<sup>4</sup>, and the *Aggression Questionnaire*<sup>1</sup>, after which they are invited to an individual intake session. These tests are also completed post group and at follow-up.

Feedback from the tests is provided at the intake session, and the men are encouraged to create a good life plan based upon their personal goals and needs. A specially designed histogram that describes ten potential areas of living that contribute to a good life is used to develop their plan. They rate their priority goals and current satisfaction in each area, and return to this histogram to review their progress on a regular basis throughout the program. At this point, the men are then invited to begin the group program. They can join the group at the beginning of any one of the modules.

Participants at each group session complete the *Outcome Rating Scale* (ORS)<sup>3</sup>. They rate how well they have been doing in terms of personal well-being, family and close relationships, work, school and friendships, and a general sense of well-being. Group therapists review the ORS results as the group session begins, and use that feedback to guide or focus group discussions.



At the end of each session group participants complete the *Session Rating Scale*<sup>3</sup>, and rate the relevance of each session to their journey, the respect they felt from the facilitators, the comfort they had with the group format and their general satisfaction

with the session. Low scores are noted immediately by the therapists and the participant is consulted on their feedback and clarification is sought about how to improve the group experience in upcoming sessions.

Quantitative analysis of the pre- and post-test scores and follow-up data shows that the group has facilitated positive change in many individualized areas, and that these changes are maintained. We found significant improvements in self-regulation and significant reductions in hostility and aggression. We also learned that participants appreciate the reflective nature of the tools. They are interested in the feedback process and report that it is helpful to review how they are doing in life. The consistent focus on reflection and feedback also provides positive role-modeling for participants.

Doing client-informed group therapy requires commitment to the process on behalf of the therapist. Clinical supervision is critical to supporting the group therapists in being responsive and creative to meeting client need and vigilant regarding client risk management. ❁

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### Research Day 2013... cont'd from Page 1

College London, **Dr. Eamon McCrory**, told us all about the neurobiology of exposure to family violence. Dr. McCrory performed double duty by also presenting at Pediatric Grand Rounds of the Alberta Children's Hospital earlier in the day. He told us that children's brains light up in the same areas that soldiers' brains do when these soldiers suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from active duty in war zones. The most intriguing finding was that while children's brains appeared similar to PTSD soldiers' brains, the children were asymptomatic. In other words, the children exposed to abuse did not display or report experiencing any depression, anxiety or behavioral disturbance. Dr. McCrory made us all ponder the future for these children: Could the brain evidence suggest that there is a latency period between violence exposure and later mental health and behavioural problems? Importantly, Dr.

Dr. McCrory tied his presentation into Dr. Graham-Bermann's in suggesting that early intervention with these children along with support for their mothers may make the difference between early exposure to abuse turning into emotional and behavioural struggles in the children as adults.

Numerous presenters also spoke about supporting men to overcome violence in their relationships. In two separate presentations, **Karen Nielsen** and **Ann Marie Dewhurst** described the *Experiences of Men Completing the Reaching for a Good Life (RFGL) Program* for men who sought to

become nonviolent in their relationships. Check out our Alberta Update for more details and their great results! **Liza Lorenzetti** and **Vic Lantion** presented on *Engaging Men and Boys in Domestic Violence Prevention: Opportunities and Promising Approaches* and identified seven entry points

for violence prevention work with men and boys. These entry points include engaging fathers, focusing on men's health, using sports and recreation, considering work and peer relationships, engaging men as allies with women and girls, and Aboriginal healing. Similarly, **Alexis Zederayko** presented on *Experiences of Men Who Have Chosen to Become*

*Non-Abusive After Perpetrating IPV*, and pressed the audience to consider the importance of asking formerly violent men about their change process toward becoming non-violent.

Thanks to everyone who made RESOLVE Research Day 2013 such a success. Future Alberta articles in this newsletter will highlight these and other presentations from Alberta. ☘



Conference attendees (left to right) **Mr. Rod McKendrick**, Prairieaction Foundation Chair; **the Honourable Sandra Jensen**, Alberta Associate Minister of Family and Community Safety; **Dr. Sandra Graham-Bermann**, Morning Keynote Speaker; and **Ms. Pradnya Khataavkar**, RESOLVE Conference Coordinator.

## Announcements, Conferences and Events



**November 25 – December 10, 2013 - *The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.*** November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. It marks the first day of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, and December 10 – International Human Rights Day – is the final day. This 16 days of activism is recognized internationally.

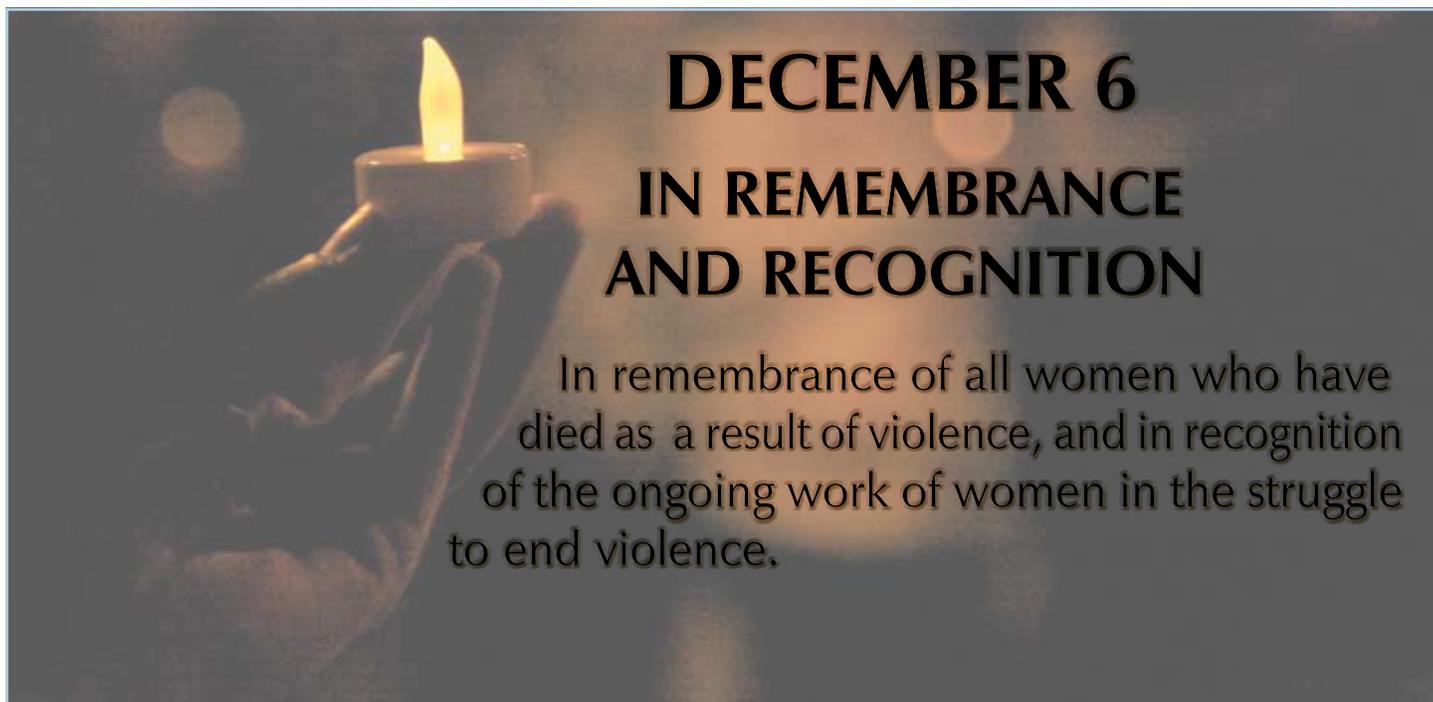
Gender-based violence affects us all. It destroys families, weakens the fabric of our society, and takes a heavy toll on our communities and our economy. Canadians are reminded during the 16 Days of Activism that they can take actions, now and throughout the year, to eliminate violence against women and girls in all its forms.

Source: [www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/days-jours-eng.html](http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/days-jours-eng.html)

**Wednesdays - *Awakening the Wise Women*** at the North End Women's Centre, 394 Selkirk Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. This six-week program explores traditional Aboriginal cultural teachings and the Eastern Yogic wisdom of the chakras to heal from violence, trauma and abuse or to increase self esteem. Topics include medicine wheel teachings, elder teachings, and the chakras, among other things. Bus tickets and child minding provided. Registration is required. For information or registration call 204-589-7347.

**December 12-13, 2013 - *Family Violence – Working Towards Solutions*** workshop presented by the Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute Inc., at the Best Western Royal in Saskatoon, SK. For more information or to register refer to [www.ctrinstitute.com/wkshops](http://www.ctrinstitute.com/wkshops).

**April 24-26, 2014 - *Intersectionality Research, Policy and Practice: Influences, Interrogations and Innovations*** conference hosted by the Institute for Intersectionality Research and Policy (IIRP), at Simon Fraser University's downtown campus in Vancouver, BC. The conference will prioritize recent theoretical developments and debates, interdisciplinary perspectives, critical assessments, methodological advancements, research, policy and practice applications, and work in the creative arts. For more information refer to [www.sfu.ca/iirp/conference/index.html](http://www.sfu.ca/iirp/conference/index.html).



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### **Prairieaction Foundation 2013 CARE Grant recipients**

**Calgary Counselling Centre:** Long term follow-up evaluation of Women's Domestic Violence Treatment Group. PAF is pleased to provide funding to support a review of the current status of published literature regarding women who are abusive in intimate relationships, along with an investigation of the long-term outcomes of the Responsible Choices for Women (RCW) program which offers support to women abusers.

**Canadian Red Cross – Manitoba Region:** Evaluation of the Canadian Red Cross Anti-Bullying Program. PAF is pleased to provide funding to assist with an assessment of the Beyond the Hurt (BtH) program, including its effectiveness in training educators and students in disseminating information about bullying in their schools and whether student participants in the program have the skills to prevent and intervene when they witness bullying incidents amongst their peers.

**The Laurel Centre (Winnipeg):** Evaluating a Framework for a Childhood Sexual Abuse Program for Men. PAF is pleased to provide funding to help the Centre begin evaluating the effectiveness of the program delivered through the Men's Resource Centre for men who experienced childhood sexual abuse.

### **Prairieaction Foundation 2013 Education & Awareness Grants**

**Ikwe Widdjiitiwin (Winnipeg):** Development of a Medicine Wheel Practice Framework for Training and Education. PAF is pleased to provide funding to assist with the development of a program model and training manual incorporating a Medicine Wheel with provincial operating standards, to provide a framework for day-to-day practice in delivering its services. The training manual will incorporate information on the best policies and practices to ensure culturally appropriate service delivery that addresses the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being of Aboriginal women and their children.

**Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre (Pinawa, MB):** Preparing youth for strong, healthy and respectful relationships. PAF is pleased to provide funding to assist in the delivery of the SADI program in eastern Manitoba. The SADI Program promotes safety and respect in schools and communities and empowers youth to seek leadership positions in their schools and communities in the prevention of violence. Program topics encourage change in the beliefs and attitudes that support a violence culture. Workshop topics and content are age appropriate and support the learning outcomes for the Manitoba Education: Physical Education and Health Curriculum. ☘

#### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

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## *Healing Journeys*



*by Dr. Darlene Juschka, Associate Professor, Women's and Gender Studies, and Religious Studies, University of Regina*



**T**he *Healing Journey* is a tri-provincial Prairie research project mapped through the RESOLVE network. This project, headed by **Dr. Jane Ursel** of the University of Manitoba, involved—through seven waves of questionnaires and 93 in-depth interviews, the collection of details and narratives of the lives of women on their journey away from intimate partner violence (IPV). Data collection was completed in 2010.

Service providers, above all others, are familiar with the difficulties faced, efforts required, and necessity to initiate more than once the journey away from violence, so there is little to say that would be new—at least with regard to specific details and/or narratives of the journeys of our participants. However, in light of the service providers' close familiarity with IPV, I will draw on stories of some of the participants of the *Healing Journey* to provide you with a long view—a view of the healing journey from initiation, through to a midway point and, finally, the conclusion of her journey away from IPV. I hope that by providing you with a long view, you may gain an overarching perspective of the process that shelter folks encounter daily.

At the outset of any journey one prepares by packing, arranging accommodations, food, pet-sitters, people to water the plants, and pick-up mail – but this is not so for a woman who begins her journey away from violence. Often everything is left behind, including pets, and as she flees grabbing her children, and maybe a purse if it can be done. She cannot prepare, so has few resources when she leaves, often in shock and pain. Whether or not she can return to her home is not known and for the time being she has lost her home; or better said, she has been driven from her home as it is no longer safe for herself and her children.

Initiating such a journey is never easy, and one participant commented that the first time she left she was unsuccessful, as she felt too dislocated in the shelter. They were good people she commented, but it was all too strange and the world unknown, so she returned home. In time, this participant did leave with the help of her adult children.

It took the woman I speak of thirty-seven years to leave her relationship, and there were numerous hurdles to overcome. One hurdle that traps women is the idea

*Healing Journeys... cont'd on page 2*

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that *"this is normal."* The above participant commented:

***"That was the first time and after that it just became [a] regular routine and it didn't really bother me. I just accepted it because it was just the way I grew up and I figured you know it was no worse than when I grew up."***

Violence as normative is not an unusual response and many participants speak as witnesses of violence as very young children—violence often directed against their own mothers:

***"This was the first time ever I saw my mom get hit and as the years went by my mom started drinking and her reason was so that she didn't have to feel my dad's fists hitting her."***



Violence, particularly intimate partner violence, is often, but not always, an integral part of the earliest experiences of the participants and therefore a normative aspect of their life. They were often not clearly able to name what they had experienced as abuse, even if they knew there was something terribly wrong with the violence directed at them. Reflecting on their own behaviour, working to ameliorate the tension in the abusive relationship, many participants come to the realization that the abuse is neither situational nor their fault, and began their journeys away from violence.

I would situate the midway point of the journey with the clear realization that what she faces is abuse, that it is not normal, and is a threat to their very lives. Participants may have left several times already, or at least have removed themselves from the home for several days. Often at this point, after having named the violence, a significant hurdle to manage is disbelief – not hers this time - but the disbelief of family (both sides) and the circle of friends shared by the couple. Denial by those around sufferers of IPV is a difficult hurdle to overcome as she has claimed her knowledge but her certainty is precarious and when denied or minimized by the abuser and his family, and even her own family, her certainty about what she has

named is shaken. One participant comments:

***"I was taught as a child you're quiet, you do what your husband tells you. You don't talk about stuff outside the home. You just put up with that. I've probably had more open discussions with my girlfriend than any of my family."***

Or another:

***"But, my parents... they kind of said, 'Well you must of done something to have caused this to happen. What did you do?'"***

The first part of the journey entails recognition of abuse; the next part of the journey consists, in-part, of the need to establish witnesses – either actual but more often metaphorical – to the abuse. Such witnesses can be friends, family, police, shelter workers, co-workers, etc. But there is a need for others to believe her story and to support her efforts to challenge the abuse and to leave the situation if need be. Naming, and having others confirm the naming, can be instrumental in bringing an end to the abuse:

***"It will never get better. Always hoping it would get better. I'll never touch you again; I'll never do that again. Never, never, never will do this, we're going to go on trips, pay off our bills and we're going to, going to, going to...and the drinking would start again and the abuse would start again, it would just get more violent, and more violent, and more violent. And I said to him [RCMP officer] right there, 'No I'm not going to go back.' And he said, 'The best thing you can do for yourself is to write down why you're not going to go back.'"***

*Healing Journeys... cont'd on page 6*

## Manitoba Update



by Cheryl Fraehlich and Jane Ursel

### Working With Aboriginal Agencies for Solutions to Violence and Abuse

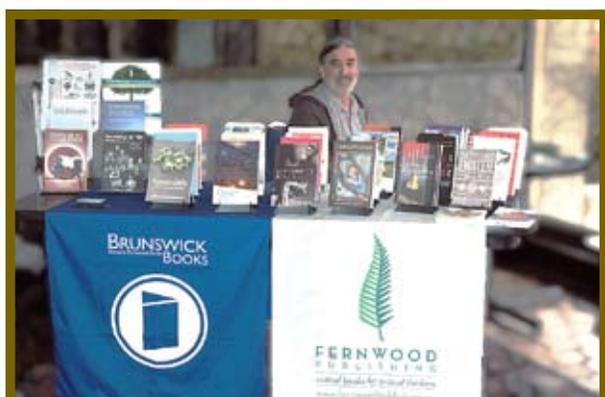
**Ikwe-Widdijiitiwin Inc. (Ikwe)** in Winnipeg is a residential shelter for women and their children. All women who are victims of abuse are welcomed at Ikwe, regardless of their ethnic origins. However, in keeping with their mandate, Ikwe provides specialized culturally sensitive services and activities for Aboriginal women including sharing and healing circles and other traditional practices. In addition to residential services, Ikwe provides individual and group counselling; advocacy and referrals; a crisis line; follow-up services; and services and educational programming for children. RESOLVE Manitoba has just completed an evaluation of the continuum of programs and services provided by Ikwe. Although results of the evaluation indicate that the agency is perceived very positively and provides valuable and essential services, agency staff are committed to looking for ways to improve Ikwe programs and services. RESOLVE will continue to work with Ikwe as they engage in the process of developing a formal service framework .

**Wahbung Abinoonjiag Inc.** provides culturally-based services to Aboriginal families in Winnipeg who have experienced violence in their lives. Programs and services are provided to women, children and youth to help break the cycle of violence now, and in future generations. RESOLVE Manitoba is working with Wahbung to develop program logic models to facilitate their future development.

**Sagkeeng Mino Pimitziwin Treatment Centre Inc.** is a family addictions treatment facility located in Fort Alexander, Manitoba. They offer a culturally oriented, seven week residential treatment program that serves First Nation and Inuit families who struggle with drug and alcohol addictions. Recognizing that family violence can be an issue confronting families struggling with addiction, the program manager of the centre requested family violence training to increase awareness and sensitivity among staff. RESOLVE Manitoba was pleased to participate in the provision of a two day training session for all staff of the Sagkeeng facility in December 2011. Cheryl Fraehlich worked with Ron Thorne-Finch over the course of the two days and provided an overview of current information on family violence including the impact of family violence on victims, families, and communities, and using the cycle of violence model to work with victims and perpetrators in both the short and long term.



### RESOLVE Publication Series Back on Track



Fernwood Publishing's Wayne Anthony

Our publication series has been an important tradition for academic and community researchers to communicate their activities to the broader community. This has led to the publication of seven books in less than one dozen years. We began the series with **Fernwood Publishing**, who initiated us into the publishing world and produced and marketed our first five books. Due to changes in Fernwood's priorities and some restructuring we moved to Cormorant Press for a few years, and they published our last two books as an experiment in entry into the academic market. In the ever changing world of publication in Canada, Cormorant decided to keep to their concentration on Canadian fiction writers and RESOLVE was once again looking for a publisher. Our search occurred at a time when Fernwood Publishing had expanded and shifted much of their

administration and production to Winnipeg. In light of the changed circumstances RESOLVE approached them again and they welcomed us back into their fold. So we are returning to our roots with Fernwood and look forward to producing many more books with the assistance of co-publisher **Wayne Antony** (pictured here in attendance at our Research Days in October 2011), and his Winnipeg staff. ☘

## Saskatchewan Update: Update from the Regina RESOLVE Team



by Danaka R. Safinuk & Kim Zorn

In September 2011, Danaka Safinuk presented on abuse during pregnancy at the *Prevention Matters* conference in Saskatoon. (Danaka is a RESOLVE Saskatchewan Master's student working under the supervision of Dr. Mary Hampton in the University of Regina's Clinical Psychology program.) Her presentation, entitled *Precursors and Consequences of Abuse During Pregnancy*, consisted of educational information on abuse during pregnancy; consequences; predictors; and the importance of screening. Over 100 audience members were in attendance. Interspersed among the educational information were quotes from participants from the **Healing Journey Project** (SSHRC/CURA, PAF, RESOLVE), and various data and statistics that drove the message home. The importance of the topic of abuse during pregnancy was evident through statistics that showed the prevalence of rates of women who experience such violence. Further, the importance of screening for abuse during pregnancy was also stressed to the audience, as pregnant women have multiple visits to health professionals, which allows for repeated opportunities for screening. Repeated exposure to health professionals helps create a trusting relationship and good rapport in which women are more likely to disclose abuse. Overall, the presentation had great impact and was well-received by the audience.

In January 2012, Danaka was later invited to speak for a community group run by the Domestic Violence Unit through Family Services Regina. This presentation was an excellent opportunity to give back to the community. Further, the two junior students who had helped with the construction of the presentation helped deliver this community presentation. This type of mentorship and student development at RESOLVE is what helps the program continue to grow. Recruitment and mentoring of young research assistants helps produce competent graduate students who pursue research projects through

RESOLVE. Danaka Safinuk was also invited by Health Canada to deliver the talk via teleconference for a group of nurses who work in Aboriginal communities. The teleconference took place on January 27, 2012. This series of presentations provides a great opportunity to connect with the community, and to represent RESOLVE within Saskatchewan.



Left-to-right: Brad Sunshine, Eric Oleson, Danaka Safinuk, Whitney Taylor, Ann Bishop, Mary Hampton, Meghan Woods, Sarah Bruyninx, Holly McKenzie. Missing: Kim Zorn

**Kim Zorn** is a new clinical psychology MA student who also works under the supervision of Dr. Mary Hampton. Since 2008, Kim has been involved in various projects with RESOLVE Saskatchewan. She has worked as a research assistant for The Healing Journey, she was the volunteer coordinator for

RESOLVE Research Days in Saskatchewan in 2009, and participated in a full-time research internship in Winter 2010. Kim's primary areas of interest in research are women's health, cross-cultural psychology and community psychology. To date, her main research focus has been the psychological health of women who have experienced severe forms of trauma and abuse. Her honours thesis, supervised by Dr. Hampton, was an exploratory analysis of eating patterns reported by women who have experienced intimate partner violence. This study contributed to the literature on the longitudinal effects of physical abuse on women's health and well-being. Kim hopes to continue working with intimate partner violence and women's health throughout the course of her academic and clinical career. Kim hopes to investigate posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in women who have experienced intimate partner abuse in her Master's thesis. She plans to use the Composite Abuse Scale to discern whether severe combined forms of abuse are more likely to elicit PTSD symptoms. Kim has also been named project coordinator for the current study that investigates rural and northern community responses to intimate partner violence. ☘

## Alberta Update



by *Lorrie Radtke and Leslie Tutty*

**I**n Alberta, efforts are underway to find a new Academic Research Coordinator. The search committee is chaired by **Anne Katzenberg**, Associate Vice-President Research, University of Calgary, and committee members include **Robbie Babins-Wagner**, Chief Executive Officer, Calgary Counseling Centre; **Lorrie Radtke**, Professor (Department of Psychology), University of Calgary; **Lesley Brown**, Associate Vice-President Research, University of Lethbridge; **Mary Hampton**, Academic Research Coordinator, RESOLVE Saskatchewan; and **Jane Ursel**, Director of RESOLVE. Interviews are expected to take place shortly.

Work on the *Healing Journey* project continues, with a focus on preparation of data for analysis. Our responsibility has been the Parenting data and the open-ended interviews. This process will be completed in the next few weeks. In the meantime, a number of our research team members have begun preliminary analyses, with completion of full research reports once the final data set is available. **Billie Thurston** has taken the lead on an analysis that focuses on sexual and reproductive health; **Kendra Nixon** has taken the lead on an analysis of mothers' strategies for protection of themselves and their children from further violence; **Rachel Ferrer**, an undergraduate student supervised by Lorrie Radtke, has undertaken an analysis of data related to drug and alcohol addictions within the Alberta sample; and **Taija-Rai Robinson**, an honours student, is in exploration of the Alberta participants' experiences with police services.

Although **Leslie Tutty** is no longer the Academic Research Coordinator for Alberta, she remains an active researcher. Recently, together with **Sarah Anne Knight** and **Jacqueline Warrell**, she completed *An Evaluation of the Calgary Partner Check Process for Domestic Violence*. This evaluation was funded through HomeFront from the Alberta Safe Communities Fund and the Provincial Mandated Treatment Steering Committee, Alberta Health Services. The Research Advisory committee consisted of **Christine Berry**, Calgary Counselling Centre; **Cynthia Wild**, YWCA Sheriff King; **Aggy King-Smith**, Manager, Community Treatment Initiatives of Alberta Health Services; and **Kevin McNichol**, Executive Director, HomeFront. The study examined how well the partner check process—used in Calgary for several

years—works. This process entails additional contact with partners of batterers as a way to check on victim safety, and for purposes of program accountability.

Participants were either administrators or frontline staff associated with three Calgary partner check programs: the Calgary Counselling Centre, the YWCA Sherriff King and HomeFront's Partner Support Program. In-depth interviews with the 15 program informants identified a number of similarities and several differences. The similarities across programs included the process for accessing names of and consent from the accused; contacting and getting consent from partners; responses from the partners regarding the partner-check processes; and protocols when new abuse is disclosed. Interviewees with Calgary Counselling and Sherriff King reported initial difficulties with the process of cataloguing when to contact partners and how the partner responded. Currently, Calgary Counselling and Partner Support have developed administrative processes to better schedule the calls and capture the responses and wishes of the partners. Other common difficulties included connecting, or reconnecting, with the partners and dealing with new partners rather than the partner associated with the incident in which the police charges were laid. The majority of the interviewees saw the partner check process as valuable to the victims, agencies, group leaders, the criminal justice system and the community, and as a mechanism to hold the offenders accountable. Partner checks can provide useful information to the treatment agencies, whether with respect to new or continued abusive behaviours or the partner's perception that the offender has changed as a result of the treatment. For further information or copies of the report, contact Leslie Tutty at [tutty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tutty@ucalgary.ca). ☞



*Healing Journeys...cont'd from Page 2*

She did write it down, and she never went back.

The endgame, or the willingness to face the unknown and leave, often requires Herculean effort from participants but a point is reached in her healing journey when enough-is-enough. The catalyst for the endgame can be a deadly threat—children, or simply the realization that the abuse is never going to end. One participant reflected:

***“The day I left I had a gun in my face. I was bruised. The only place I wasn’t bruised was my hands, my face and my neck...But until I became who I needed to be rather than this secret person, nothing in my life had any meaning or value; there was nothing to be passionate about.”***

While another spoke of her children:

***“It’s actually my kids who changed me. You know, if it wasn’t for them urging me to go on I don’t know where I’d be right now. They mean so much and they’re such an important part of my life. Everything I do right now is just to make their lives a little bit better. And I’ve changed from being so scared, and not... not having very much in life to now. I look at life as a precious gift and each new day is what you make it.”***

Exiting from intimate partner violence does not mean that the healing journey of these women is over. They have all been shaped by the violence that has been woven into the fabric of their lives. But equally they occupy a social body that accepts violence as a legitimate and viable aspect of social interaction. We can see this social acceptance in instances where people stand by and watch a woman being beaten—as too many of our participants experienced, or when people marked by Aboriginality, race and/or sexuality are assaulted in the streets by those who consider themselves entitled to dominate those they consider “other,” however that otherness is defined. Faced with a social body replete with violence, these women nonetheless reject violence even as they recognize that it has shaped their lives:

***“Before I couldn’t talk to anyone about anything. If you asked me about anything I would get mad at you, ‘Don’t ask me!’ It’s***

***none of your business.’ It’s hurting me—it was hurting me more than anybody else [hurt me], I wasn’t proving anything and I was just getting myself angry. I notice that when I let it out now, it’s kind of released. It’s not just sitting there, it’s out and I don’t have to put up with it in my own mind to try to figure it out. When I let it out there’s more space for it to move around. I’m still learning how to live and be in a non-violent relationship because I’m not used to it.”***

Beginnings, middles, and ends, the healing journey is complex and unique to each woman who rejects intimate partner violence. But even as each journey is unique, there are patterns shared among women, since they share a larger social context and, therefore, attitudes toward violence and gender/sex ideologies of that context. Hurdles listed in this article are indicative of these patterns, and indicate that women continue to doubt their own perspectives and observations. They tend to take as normative masculine structures, where males dominate females and insinuate violence, enacted or suggested, is part of that domination and that, for multiple reasons, undercutting of their reality by their abuser, family of origin, the devaluation of those marked as female/feminine and/or racialized female/feminine, and so forth, these women (like too many women?) have little self-value. I suspect these patterns are not especially unexpected but what is surprising is how entrenched the patterns remain, even in the face of efforts on the part of shelters, services, feminists, and governments. These patterns suggest that there may be pieces of this complex issue that we have yet to uncover, and questions we have yet to ask. ☘



## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**February 23, 2012** - *The Impact of Exposure to Domestic Violence on Children*, with Kendra Nixon. This presentation is available through Online Computer Speaker Series Log On And Learn, Community Professional Speaker Series. Refer to [reg.conexsys.ca/comm11-12/Default.asp?SessionCode=224632002](http://reg.conexsys.ca/comm11-12/Default.asp?SessionCode=224632002).

**March 1 – 2, 2012** - *Emerging Issues in Anti-Violence: Working to Achieve Safety, Justice and Healing for Women and Children*, hosted by Ending Violence Association of British Columbia, at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC. For more information, refer to [www.endingviolence.org/node/1165](http://www.endingviolence.org/node/1165) or contact the EVA BC office at (604)633-2506, ext. 10.



International  
Women's Day

**March 8, 2011** - *International Women's Day*, observed since the early 1900s, is a global day that celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. Make a difference—think globally and act locally. Make everyday International Women's Day. Do your part to ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding. **Check for events in your area.**

**April 18, 2012** - *Annual Fundraising Breakfast*, hosted by The Laurel Centre, 7:30 AM, at Hotel Fort Garry in Winnipeg, MB. Guest speaker is Mellissa Fung. Ms. Fung has been a reporter for CBC television since 2003. As a national correspondent she has covered numerous topics on Canadian and World affairs, including the Robert Pickton trial, and the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. In 2007 and 2008, she was sent on assignment to Afghanistan, and she was abducted during her second tour. *Under an Afghan Sky* is her first book. Tickets are \$35 per person, or \$300 for a table of ten (10). For tickets, call (204)783-5460, ext. 0, or mail your cheque to **The Laurel Centre, 104 Roslyn Road, Winnipeg, MB, R3L 0G6**.

**May 6 - 9, 2012** - *Joining Together: Taking Action Against Child Abuse*, hosted by the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse, in Calgary, AB. The conference provides an opportunity to learn about the latest research and best practices in forensic and clinical approaches to child maltreatment. The wide array of keynote and plenary speakers and presenters ensures that a multitude of themes are covered, such as forensic interviewing, domestic violence, drug-endangered children, offender interrogation, Internet child exploitation, cultural sensitivity, abuses of faith, and case studies. Register online at [reg.conexsys.ca/2012joining](http://reg.conexsys.ca/2012joining). For more information, call (403)289-8385, e-mail [csica@shaw.ca](mailto:csica@shaw.ca), or refer to [www.csicainfo.com](http://www.csicainfo.com), [www.facebook.com/takingaction](http://www.facebook.com/takingaction) or [twitter.com/#!/takingactionca](http://twitter.com/#!/takingactionca).



### Call for Proposals: RESOLVE Book Series

RESOLVE is now accepting proposals for the next book in the RESOLVE book series. Proposed books can represent a topic previously not covered in the existing book series, or can be an update of topics covered in the other book series—particularly some of the earlier book series. Refer to [www.umanitoba.ca/resolve](http://www.umanitoba.ca/resolve). All books proposed must reflect a topic related to family violence and/or violence against women and children. Proposals must include the following information **within a maximum of 5 single spaced pages**:

1. **Book Co-Editors.** Include names, titles, organizational affiliation, contact information and a professional or personal biography for each co-editor. The biography should convey how the individual is connected to the topic of their proposed book. Books require one academic co-editor and one co-editor from the community.
2. **Tentative Title.** It is understood that this title may change.
3. **Brief Description of Topic.** Describe the topic of the book and what issues will be covered under this topic.
4. **Explain Why this is a Topic that is Timely or that Needs to be Explored.**
5. **Tentative List of Chapters and their Authors.** It is understood that all chapters and their authors may not yet be determined, therefore ideas for at least 4 chapters should be presented, with indication that other chapters will be included. Any other information about the remaining chapters will be welcome. Identify if you are open to other people submitting chapters.

**Deadline for Proposals:** TBD

Proposals must be sent by e-mail in Microsoft Word to **Jocelyn Proulx** at [proulxb@ms.umanitoba.ca](mailto:proulxb@ms.umanitoba.ca).

Questions can be directed to Jocelyn Proulx at [proulxb@ms.umanitoba.ca](mailto:proulxb@ms.umanitoba.ca) or (204)474-7410.

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Ceplis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



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Web site: [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca)

## *Changing Faces at Prairieaction Foundation*



In December 2011, PAF held its Annual General Meeting in Regina at Government House. We said good-byes to **John Duhault** as Chair of PAF, and Board members **Kevin Kline** and **Linda Thauberger-Smith**. We also said good-bye to the Executive Director, **Martin Strauss** and **Kirsten Parker** of Strauss Event & Association Management. We wish them good luck in their future endeavours.

**Kathy Ogryzlo** was elected as Chair of PAF, **Rod McKendrick** as Vice-Chair, **Karen Naylor** as Secretary and **Marlene Bertrand C.M.** as Treasurer.

The remainder of the Board consists of:

- **Mary Rose McGuire**, Alberta;
- **Cynthia Brick**, Manitoba;
- **Lisa Broda**, Saskatchewan;
- **Mavis Clark**, Alberta; and
- **Heather Salloum**, Saskatchewan

Our new mailing address as of January 1, 2012, is:

31250 Woodland Way  
Calgary, Alberta T3R 1G5

Further details are available at [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca). ☞

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*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *Honour Based Violence?*

### *A Research Project Exploring Family Violence Towards Young Women from Immigrant Families in Winnipeg*



*by Esther Blum (Qualtrica Associates), Arlene Elliott (Mount Carmel Clinic) and Lucia Madariaga-Vignudo (Qualtrica Associates)*

**I**n 2009, service providers in Winnipeg identified an emerging trend among their female clients, 15-30 years of age, from immigrant families. Young women were disclosing that they were victims of family violence and seeking support to find emergency shelter and services. This type of violence, also known as "honour based violence" (HBV)\*, is perpetuated by family members other than spouses, common law partners or boyfriends (e.g. by fathers, mothers, brothers, uncles and aunts). Most existing services and policies in Winnipeg were developed to respond to domestic violence.

Concerns were raised at the **Network of Organizations for War Affected Newcomers (NOWAN)**, which provides a monthly forum for service providers to share information and research and to work collaboratively to address emerging issues. **Mount Carmel Clinic, Nor' West Co-op Community Health Centre** and **Osborne House Inc.** established a collaborative partnership with **Qualtrica Associates** to develop a qualitative study (with a literature review) to explore the issue. Interviews were carried out with 34 service providers and two courageous immigrant women who had experienced family violence as teenagers. The research was approved by the Psychology/Sociology Research Ethics Board at the University of Manitoba as issues of confidentiality continue to be paramount.

#### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

*Who are the women being affected by so-called HBV?*

Young women in their teens and early 20's from a range of ethno-cultural minority communities and religious groups are targets of abuse. Some are immigrants privately sponsored by family members, but others are second generation Canadians.

#### ***Who is involved in the violence?***

- Multiple family members (males and females)
- Brothers are pressured to follow and keep control over their sisters on behalf of older family members.
- Relatives sponsoring women to Canada may be more likely to be involved in carrying out abuse.

#### ***What does the abuse and violence look like?***

Emotional abuse in the form of young women being controlled, stalked and followed was commonly identified in the interviews. As well, young women were sometimes forced into marriages with older men. Coercion to work and contribute financially to the family means less time for schoolwork and friendships. Physical abuse was also present.

***Honour Based Violence?...cont'd on page 6***

#### **Inside this issue ...**

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## What are You Wearing?: Day of Pink



by Rebecca Ulrich, Canadian Red Cross; Introduction by Dr. Jocelyn Proulx, RESOLVE Manitoba



Every week last year more than 268 youth learned how to have healthier dating relationships, stand up to bullying, or recognize abuse.

### Youth: Agents of Abuse, Agents of Change

**F**or many Canadian youth bullying is part of their school and peer experience. Approximately 45% of students experienced verbal and/or physical victimization at school and among their peers (Abada, Hou, & Ram, 2008; Josephson & Proulx, 2008). A more recent study of youth's experiences of violence conducted by the Alliance of Family Violence Research Centers found that out of 576 youth in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, 58% had at least one incident of emotional abuse or bullying within the past year; 24% had at least one incident of physical violence; and 26% had experienced some form of sexual violence. Youth believed they were targeted because of their gender, their age, and their appearance.

Within schools peers are often present during episodes of bullying (88%) and some actively intervene (19%). Most interventions (57%) are successful in stopping the bullying (Hawkins, Pepler & Craig, 2001). These statistics suggest that youth themselves are agents of anti-bullying actions. Bullying is regarded as an issue of peer relationships, with greater connections between peers being associated with less bullying behaviour (Sutherland, 2011). Thus, efforts to build relationships among students may be an effective approach to reducing bullying through active intervention in episodes of bullying as well as preventing bullying from occurring. Events such as the **Day of Pink**, organized by the **Canadian Red Cross**, work to foster

positive relationships within schools.

**Day of Pink** is an initiative that provides students with the opportunity to discuss the impact of bullying and how they can use their power to help create a safe and respectful school environment. On April 11, 2012, students and staff wore pink shirts in solidarity to show their stand against bullying.

How did it get started? The Day of Pink began after two high school students in Nova Scotia took a stand against bullying in their school. The students asked all of their peers to wear pink to school after they heard that a male classmate had been bullied for wearing a pink shirt, and this led to a grassroots campaign that attracted worldwide attention.

**Red Cross** in Manitoba thought it was important to recognize this movement and encouraged the province to take a stand against bullying. A resource package containing classroom activity ideas, tip sheets, and information about Red Cross bullying prevention programs was sent out to all schools. Red Cross also provided schools with pink shirts to wear.

The response was overwhelming! On April 11, 2012, more than 8,500 people from over 130 schools in Manitoba took a stand against bullying by wearing pink shirts. Even the Minister of Education, **Nancy Allan**, joined the stand by wearing pink. There were pink parades, school rallies, Sash mobs, classroom presentations and much more - all to educate others about the issue of bullying and show Manitoba's commitment to creating respectful school environments for everyone.

Manitoba CAN imagine a world without bullying! ☘

Abada, T., Hou, F., & Ram, B. (2008). The effects of harassment and victimization on self-rated health and mental health among Canadian adolescents. *Social Science and Medicine*, 67 (4), 557-567.

Hawkins, D. L., Pepler, D.J., & Craig, W. M. (2001). Naturalistic observation of peer interventions in bullying. *Social Development*, 10 (4), 512-527.

Josephson, W. L., & Proulx, J. (2008). Violence in young adolescents; relationships: A path model. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 23 (2), 189-208.

Sutherland, A. E. (2011). The roles of school climate and peers in bullying. *Dissertation Abstracts International: Section B: The Sciences and Engineering*, 72 (4-B), AAINR70378, 2484.

## Manitoba Update: A Life that Made a Difference



by Jane Ursel

**I**t is with great sadness that I report the death of **Ted Newall**, one of RESOLVE's greatest benefactors. He died peacefully on April 26, 2012, at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary. When the Manitoba Family Violence Research Centre wanted to grow into a regional Centre, **Margaret Newall** became a champion of our project. She was a founding member of the **Prairieaction Foundation** (PAF) which made our regional dream a reality. Ted was the silent facilitator of our founding meeting in 1997, which was hosted by the Nova Corporation where he was president and CEO. For the next five years, Margaret and colleagues launched into a major fundraising campaign for the Prairieaction Foundation and Ted played a key role in opening corporate doors for PAF.

What I will remember most, however, is the incredible generosity of Ted and Margaret in the early years of RESOLVE's development. RESOLVE had no funds to support meetings in Calgary, so Ted and Margaret

opened the doors of their home and I became a fairly regular house guest as I attended to business at the University of Calgary. Margaret and I took off with the family car to tour around Alberta and Saskatchewan Universities looking for a "home" for our RESOLVE offices. Ted supported all of these incursions on his home life with grace and good humour.

Margaret and Ted, pictured here at their beloved Muskoka family cottage, were a couple committed to philanthropy in Calgary and throughout Canada. Ted served as chairman of the University of Calgary and was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1993, in recognition of his many contributions in business and philanthropy across Canada. I have learned so much from their example of community commitment and personal generosity and RESOLVE has benefited greatly from their support. Our thoughts and kind wishes are extended to Margaret and her family during this difficult time. ❀



Margaret and Ted Newall

## Saskatchewan Update

### *Bridging the Gap: Criminal Harassment Victimization and the Criminal Justice Response*



by Deb George

**S**haring the frustrations and disappointments of their clients, with funding provided by **Status of Women Canada, Family Service Regina's Domestic Violence Unit** commenced work on the first of three phases of the *Domestic Violence Stalking Project* in 2006. Through promoting and contributing to the early identification and timely and effective community response in cases of intimate partner stalking, the goal of the Project was to reduce the duration and impact for victims. Allowing access to a variety of perspectives, a key piece of Phase I involved interviewing victims and front-line workers, including quantitative research and analysis with a cross-section of officers from Regina and Saskatoon Police Services.

Findings highlighted that at every step in the process, often hampering the goals of early identification and effective intervention, there appears to be a filtering system in place that determines the course of action taken. Minimization is common. Wondering if they are over-reacting, stalking targets second-guess themselves from the outset. Flawed advice and minimization are received from friends and family. As the gatekeepers to the criminal justice system, the police response impacts everything that follows. The final layer of filtering is the court—prosecutors and judiciary. Many interviewees expressed a lack of hope when discussing the breaching cycle and inconsequential sentencing practices. When sentencing imposes the same conditions that were breached pre-sentence, it falls short as a protective restriction. Failure at any step means targets and their loved ones remain at risk, front-line workers are rendered powerless to provide any concrete protection or direction, stalkers are given repeated opportunities to do harm, and everyone involved is left with a feeling that the “system” does not take the issue seriously. Emphasizing the need for a common understanding and seamless response is that the same concerns and frustrations are shared across the boundary of “victim” and “system.”

Research becomes most valuable when it is applied practically with the goal of visible and measurable change. As opportunities arose, Domestic Violence Unit staff provided community presentations throughout Phases II and III. The *Are You Being Stalked?* brochure and several informational handouts were researched, compiled and widely distributed. To aid in flagging potential cases of stalking as early as possible, a *Stalking Checklist* was put into use. The *Resource Manual:*

*Working with Vulnerable Stalking Victims*, which includes a list of specialized community resources, was created. Family Service Regina's website was expanded to include a section specifically dedicated to information on stalking. The *Stalking Log* brochure, with information about the crime of criminal harassment and the evidence required for a charge or a Peace Bond, was developed to ease the burden on victims. Finally, a number of audio recorders were made available for loan through the Collecting Audio Recorded Evidence Program.

Over the six years of the Project the importance of early intervention repeatedly became apparent. For this to occur, front-line professionals have a duty to acquire or access the knowledge necessary to accurately identify, effectively intervene, and actively advocate with and on behalf of victims. With appropriate information and resources, stalking targets will have the support they need to prompt a timely and positive response. In the short and long term it is much more valuable and helpful to take a proactive approach, rather than passively leave action to others and then point an accusatory finger when things do not proceed ideally.

We also learned that, no matter how optimal the response, extensive follow-up and ongoing support is critical to lessening the impact for stalking victims. Understanding the stages they are likely to go through will help them react appropriately and cope better. They also need information about the dynamics of stalking; the type of stalker they are dealing with; the likely motivation and intention of their stalker; what behaviours to expect; the potential risk; and how to keep themselves and their loved ones safe. Safety plans should be tailored to optimize security while restricting freedom as little as possible. Also required is specific information about what evidence is required and how best to collect it—detailing history; logging every incident; getting witnesses involved; using available technology; and saving messages, texts, gifts, etc. Finally, knowing that they are not alone by means of ongoing validation and encouragement is essential. ❧



Family Service Regina Domestic Violence team

## Alberta Update



by Nicole Letourneau

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As you all know by now Leslie Tutty, our long time RESOLVE Academic Coordinator, retired from the position in July 2011. Although she will be greatly missed, we are happy to report that she will continue to be active on a number of research projects in which RESOLVE is also a partner. While the search took a long time I am very happy to welcome **Dr. Nicole Letourneau**, a truly outstanding Canadian researcher as her bio below indicates. It is also wonderful to maintain a truly interdisciplinary team—Nicole’s nursing background will add an important perspective to my sociological and Mary Hampton’s psychology perspectives. On behalf of all RESOLVE offices and staff, a warm welcome to Nicole.

– Jane Ursel

**N**icole Letourneau received her Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Alberta and is tenured full Professor at the University of Calgary in the faculties of Nursing and Medicine (Pediatrics). Currently, she holds the Norlien/ACHF Chair in Parent-Infant Mental Health and previously was the Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Healthy Child Development. She remains adjunct professor at the universities of Alberta and New Brunswick. Nicole is PI of the CHILD (Child Health Intervention and Longitudinal Development; [www.childstudies.ca](http://www.childstudies.ca)) Studies Program studying parenting, attachment and child development in the context of family violence, maternal depression, and substance abuse.



Nicole Letourneau

She has conducted qualitative and quantitative research on mothering, mother-infant relationships and infant/child development in the context of violence. Her most recently funded study examines the mediating influence of maternal attachment behaviours on the relationship between maternal mental distress during pregnancy and infant Hypothalamic Pituitary Adrenal axis responses—she wants to know if parenting practices can overcome the effects of prenatal stress on infants’ neurodevelopment. Based on her past research, she is currently planning a large Canadian network grant to develop and implement an attachment intervention for mothers, infants and “others” (mothers’ partner, friend, family member, etc.). The intervention is unique in its focus on triadic (mother-infant-other) attachment and reducing trauma in families in risky conditions, such as

those exposed to violence, mental health problems or substance abuse. She will also seek to uncover the effects of triadic attachment intervention on mothers and children’s responses to stress and children’s neurodevelopment. Her research vision of developing and testing parenting interventions to reduce trauma in young children fits with the intentions and interests of RESOLVE partners.

All of Nicole’s research is community-based and seeks to develop evidence to guide best practice in parent-child support and intervention. She has received many honours for her scholarly work, including being named Canada’s Premier Young Researcher by CIHR in 2006 (for her research on family violence effects on mothers and mothering), to Canada’s Top 40 Under 40 in 2007, and to Who’s Who in Canada, initially in 2008. She has published (or in press) over 70 peer-reviewed papers, 13 chapters and book contributions, and 28 publications in trade journals such as the Canadian Nurse. Nicole has presented her research over 160 times. As Principal or Co-Principal Investigator she has earned over 5 million dollars from national and regional funders. As Co-Investigator, she has earned nearly 10 million more research dollars for her projects. Currently, she serves on the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Governing Council and chairs the Standing Committee on Ethics. She is on the board of the International Association for the Study of Attachment and Editor-in-Chief of their quarterly newsletter. She is also on the board of the Alberta Association for Infant Mental Health. ☘

## *Honour Based Violence?...cont'd from Page 1*

***“While I was sleeping, I was getting kicked and punched or getting hot water in my face or cold water. Hoping the next morning I should never wake up again...”*** (Young woman)

### **Why is the abuse happening?**

- Patriarchal norms espoused by parents or guardians.
- Intergenerational clashes.
- Lack of parental knowledge about disciplining teenagers in a Canadian context.
- Diminished sense of parental control.
- Poverty, economic stress, parental unemployment and discrimination causing stress and friction.
- Mental health condition of parents and guardians.
- Sudden changes in family composition due to family reunification policies may create tension, especially in overcrowded conditions.

### **What are some barriers that young women encounter when seeking help?**

#### *Personal Barriers*

The young women often normalize the abuse as a culturally acceptable way of life, feeling that they caused the violence, by not fulfilling family members' expectations. They lack the skills, confidence or trust to seek help and resources on their own.

#### *Family and Community-Related Barriers*

The pressure to remain silent and maintain the unity of the family and ethno-cultural community is great, as is fear of rejection and isolation if they reveal the violence to others outside.

#### *Structural Barriers*

There are very few places where women can turn to for help. There are a lack of culturally safe and age appropriate emergency housing and services. As well, there is poor communication and a lack of coordination between social service, health and settlement agencies

### **SOME KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Fund shelter spaces or other emergency housing for women from immigrant families who are affected by HBV.
- Foster constructive dialogue and strengthen ties between ethnocultural communities, service providers

and Child and Family Services (CFS).

- Establish an inter-departmental government working group to address this issue on a policy and programmatic level.
- Create awareness and training opportunities for service providers to detect and effectively respond to HBV.
- Integrate information about HBV into high school, community colleges and EAL classrooms.
- Develop poster campaigns in bus shelters, public bathrooms, doctor's offices and other public places.
- Fund community based education to create dialogue and action within ethnocultural communities.

Despite the increasingly multicultural make up of Manitoba, little attention has been paid to family violence towards young women from immigrant families. For the sake of young women at risk of so-called HBV (or currently being abused), it is time for collective action.

For more information about the study please contact Qualtrica Associates at [qualtrica@gmail.com](mailto:qualtrica@gmail.com) or Arlene Elliott at [aelliott@mountcarmel.ca](mailto:aelliott@mountcarmel.ca).

The final report and literature review will be posted on the Mount Carmel Clinic website at [www.mountcarmel.ca](http://www.mountcarmel.ca). ☞



\* As a research team we question the acceptance of the term honour-based violence. For a fuller discussion about why we are cautious of the term, please refer to the full length report.

<sup>1</sup> The findings outlined are drawn from focus group and individual interviews. Due to the small sample size in this study we advise caution in generalizing the results. The full-length report provides an elaboration of the study findings.

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS



**July 16 - 20, 2012 - *International Workshop on Gender Training***, a joint collaboration with Gender Equality and Mosaic International, Inc., at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, ON. Organizations, programmes and projects are increasingly being asked to develop gender equality policies and strategies that seek to provide women and men with equal opportunities and ensure that their interventions are gender-sensitive or, at the very least, do not reinforce inequities. The gender training workshop seeks to provide workshop participants with core concepts, gender analytic frameworks and gender strategies that can improve the effectiveness of your organization, programmes and projects in working with vulnerable and marginalized women and men, boys and girls. This workshop will move you beyond the theory to apply in practical and useful ways gender analysis and gender sensitive strategies to your organization and its programmes and projects to achieve greater social justice, development and peace. For more information refer to [www.mosaic-net-intl.ca/gender.shtml](http://www.mosaic-net-intl.ca/gender.shtml).

**August 3 - 16, 2012 - *Trauma Recovery Certificate Training***, offered by Taking Flight International Corporation, in St. Albert, AB. The aim of this training is to translate new knowledge from the research setting to real-world applications in order to provide an effective wholistic and culturally sensitive healing service to those who have been traumatized, thereby improving their futures and the futures of their children. For more information refer to [training@takingflightinternational.com](mailto:training@takingflightinternational.com) or e-mail [info@takingflightinternational.com](mailto:info@takingflightinternational.com).

**October 19, 2012 - *RESOLVE Research Day 2012***, hosted by RESOLVE Saskatchewan, in Regina, Saskatchewan. Theme is Ways of Healing. See back page for more information.

**October 24 - 26, 2012 - *Third International Conference on Violence in the Health Sector: Linking Local Initiatives With Global Learning***, hosted by the Scientific and Organization Committee and organized by Oud Consultancy. The conference will be held in Vancouver, BC. Specific aims of the conference are to sensitize stakeholders to the issue of violence in the health care sector; understand the manifestations and the human, professional and economic implications of violence in the health care sector; promote effective sustainable initiatives and strategies to create safe environments for workers and clients in the health care sector; and present initiatives which respond to the problem, and have transferable learning for efforts in broader service and geographical contexts. For more information refer to [www.oudconsultancy.nl/vancouver/violence/invitation-third.html](http://www.oudconsultancy.nl/vancouver/violence/invitation-third.html), or by e-mail to [conference.management@freeler.nl](mailto:conference.management@freeler.nl).

**November 7-9, 2012 - *National Research Day: Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence: Exploring the Continuum of Violence Against Women and Girls***, and is organized by the FREDA Centre (School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University), in partnership with the Alliance of Canadian Research Centres on Violence, the Canadian Observatory on the Justice System's Response to Intimate Partner Violence, the Ending Violence Association of British Columbia, BC Society of Transition Houses, and our National and Regional Advisory Committees. National Research Day will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, at the Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown. A pre-conference training workshop, facilitated by doctors Lori Haskell and Melanie Randall, will be held on November 6, 2012, and will focus on issues that surround the provision of services for women who have experienced sexual violence. Early registration prices are available until August 31, 2012. Conference inquiries can be directed to [NRDay@sfu.ca](mailto:NRDay@sfu.ca) or [fredacentre.com/events](http://fredacentre.com/events).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Dr. Karen Wood** has received a postdoctoral fellowship from the Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre. **Elder Betty McKenna** has received a *Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Award*. Details at [www.iphrc.ca](http://www.iphrc.ca).

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



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**RESEARCH DAY 2012: WAYS OF HEALING**



**Research Day 2012** will be held **October 18-19, 2012**, in Regina, Saskatchewan, at the Regina Inn and Conference Centre in Regina, Saskatchewan. The event is presented by RESOLVE Saskatchewan.

Inspired by the healing wheel, conference topics include:

- Physical, mental, spiritual, and/or emotional healing
- Abuse prevention programs
- Abuse in communities and families
- Community-based program implementation and evaluation
- Institutional healing (human rights conventions, civil/constitutional law, government policy)
- Other ways of healing

Call for papers and registration information can be found on the RESOLVE Saskatchewan website at [www.uregina.ca/resolve/](http://www.uregina.ca/resolve/).

For more information contact Mary Hampton or Ann Bishop at **306-337-2511** or [RESOLVE@uregina.ca](mailto:RESOLVE@uregina.ca). ☘

**RESOLVE Manitoba**

*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *The Truth In Sentencing Act*

✂ ✂ ✂  
*by Jane Ursel*



This past year we have heard a great deal about a number of amendments that the Harper government was introducing to the **Criminal Code of Canada** (CCC). These amendments would make significant changes to how justice was done in Canada. One item of particular relevance to family violence victims and accused is limiting judges' discretion regarding credit given a convicted offender for time spent in pre-sentence custody (remand) at the time of sentencing. The old "two for one" practice has been put to a halt. For example, prior to this amendment, if an accused was held in remand for four months and then decided to plead guilty and if their sentence was eight months incarceration, the convicted offender would walk out of court having "served" their time because they were given two days credit for every day in remand. The new Act, entitled the **Truth in Sentencing Act**, came into force February 22, 2012. This Act establishes a maximum credit of one day for every day served in remand with a possibility of a maximum credit of one and one-

half days for every day served in remand if justified. However, if the offender is detained due to a breach of their conditions of release on bail or due to their criminal record, the credit for time served is limited to one day for each day in remand.

Further, this Act requires the Courts to set out the reasons for award of credit for time served in excess of one day for every day in remand. At the correctional level it is anticipated that this will reduce pressure on remand facilities, However, the Act could increase pressure on jails, as this is likely to increase the length of sentences. From the perspective of keeping victims safe this seems like a good and fair measure, But we know from experience that often the best intended policies could have unintended effects.

If an accused cannot get additional credit for pre-sentence time in custody, will this decrease their motivation to plead guilty? Will this increase the likelihood they may opt to go to trial and then the victim will have to testify? Given that we know victims are often reluctant to testify, will this result

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3. RESOLVE Manitoba Update
4. RESOLVE Saskatchewan Update
5. RESOLVE Alberta Update
6. Truth..., con't.
7. Announcements / Conferences
8. Prairieaction Update

## *“It’s Nothing, Get Over It”: The Normalization of Nonphysical Forms of Violence in the Lives of Youth*



*by Kathy Levine and Jocelyn Proulx*

A recent study of the experiences of violence of 576 youth from Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec, revealed that within the past year 44% had been verbally abused in the community; 58% experienced verbal abuse in school; 46% were verbally abused by peers; and 42% experienced verbal abuse by a family member. A significant proportion of these youth experienced emotional violence in these settings once a week or almost every day: 25% in school settings; 22% by peers; 15% in the community; and 35% at home. Youth perceived that they were targeted due to their age, their sex, and/or their appearance (height, weight, style of dress, hair color and style, and tattoos/scars/piercings).

Verbal abuse in all settings was found to be upsetting to some degree by the majority of youth (62% to 78%). Disclosures of verbal abuse occurred more when it happened in the community (61%) and least when it happened at school (45%). Those who did disclose were more likely to receive help if the disclosure was about verbal abuse in the community (44%) and in the family (40%). In cases of disclosure about abuse at school, only 23% of the people told did anything to help the youth and 28% provided help when disclosure was about verbal abuse by peers. Responses to disclosures included active intervention, advice and support, and minimization. Minimization was highest (33%) and active intervention was lowest (13%) for community based verbal abuse. Active assistance increased for school and peer based verbal abuse (33%) but was highest for family based abuse (62%). Minimization was similar for abuse in school (11%), with peers (8%) and with family (9%). Except in the context of family, giving support and advice was the most common form of assistance given.

Previous studies have demonstrated that calling someone names or insulting them negatively affects their sense of self (i.e. Jiwani, Steenbergen, & Mitchel, 2006). Most youth in this study were upset by these experiences, with 25% to 45% being quite or extremely upset. Yet, despite their degree of upset, most youth did not disclose these incidents. Nondisclosures can result in general perceptions

that these experiences are not harmful and are an “expected” part of adolescent life, and indeed the youth in this study believed they were in part targeted because of their age. The normalization of verbal abuse results in a hesitancy to disclose on the part of youth and a lack of knowledge about effective responses to disclosures on the part of adults, as seen in the degree of minimization of community based verbal abuse. Interestingly, it was the community based abuse that was the most upsetting to youth (45% being quite or extremely upset by it) and the most disclosed form of abuse, but it received the least active response.

The results of this study indicate that more attention needs to be given to verbally abusive behaviour in awareness and intervention programs. Without the same attention that has been given to physical violence, verbal abuse has become a normalized part of the everyday lives of youth. This prevalent but relatively unacknowledged form of abuse will likely continue, unreported and adversely affecting youth’s sense of self, unless addressed through specific systemic responses. ✂

*Jiwani, Y., Steenbergen, C., Mitchel, C. (2006). **Girlhood, the Canadian terrain: Redefining the limits.** Montreal, QC: Black Rose Books.*



## Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

### 2012 Recipients of the Carolynne Boivin Bursary



**Mariah Baldwin**

We are very pleased to announce the 2012 recipients of the **Boivin Bursary Award**. Our two recipients are **Mariah Baldwin** and **Janine Bramadat**, both of whom are working on their M.A. thesis in the Department of Sociology. Mariah is studying the operation and impact of Domestic Violence Death Review Committees in comparison to Judicial Inquiries and Janine will be examining domestic violence intervention and prevention programs for new Canadians. Both topics are extremely important to our goal of reducing violence and abuse in our society and their findings will make a substantial contribution



**Janine Bramadat**

to the field. Congratulations Mariah and Janine!



### New Projects

**A**lthough it is hard to say goodbye to the warm days of summer, fall often brings exciting beginnings. One new project for RESOLVE Manitoba is an evaluation of the Ndinawe Child and Youth Care Certificate Program (NCYCCP). The NCYCCP was established in 2007 and is a full time, Red River College accredited training program for individuals who have exited the sex trade. The knowledge that these students derive from their experience serves as an important preventative measure in informing and promoting positive choices when working with youth who are themselves at risk for sexual exploitation. In addition to providing training through course work and practicum placements in agencies serving children, youth, and families throughout Winnipeg, the full-time, 11 month program is offered in a safe community environment that also provides much needed healing and cultural supports for students. Student success is enhanced through the use of a holistic model that provides life skills training, counselling, and a variety of healing supports integrated with cultural values and teachings. The evaluation, which is funded by a Prairieaction Foundation CARE grant, will include interviews with program stakeholders including collateral agencies, program staff, students from each of the five cohorts of the program, and family members of students. Information from this evaluation will be used to contribute to improved services and better

outcomes for individuals who were sexually exploited during their youth

There are more Aboriginal children in the care of child welfare across Canada today than there were during the height of the residential school and the 60's scoop. The residual effects of colonization such as poverty, trauma, and substance abuse which are responsible for the heightened risk for Aboriginal children to come into care, also dramatically increase their risk for alcohol-related disabilities. Working with Dr. Jason Brown from the University of Western Ontario, we are beginning work on another project this fall entitled Experiences of Aboriginal Foster Parents with Children in the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum. This is a five year SSHRC funded study that will describe what Aboriginal parents who foster Aboriginal children with FASD see as their spiritual, mental, emotional and physical needs for placement success and gaps and barriers to meeting these needs. The first year of the study will involve qualitative interviews with Aboriginal foster parents and child protection workers in Manitoba to assess the needs and challenges experienced by foster parents. This will be followed by concept mapping of the interview data and the development of a questionnaire to determine the prevalence of the identified needs and challenges in a large sample of Aboriginal foster parents. ☸

## RESOLVE Saskatchewan Conducts Research on Female Sexuality and Intimate Partner Violence



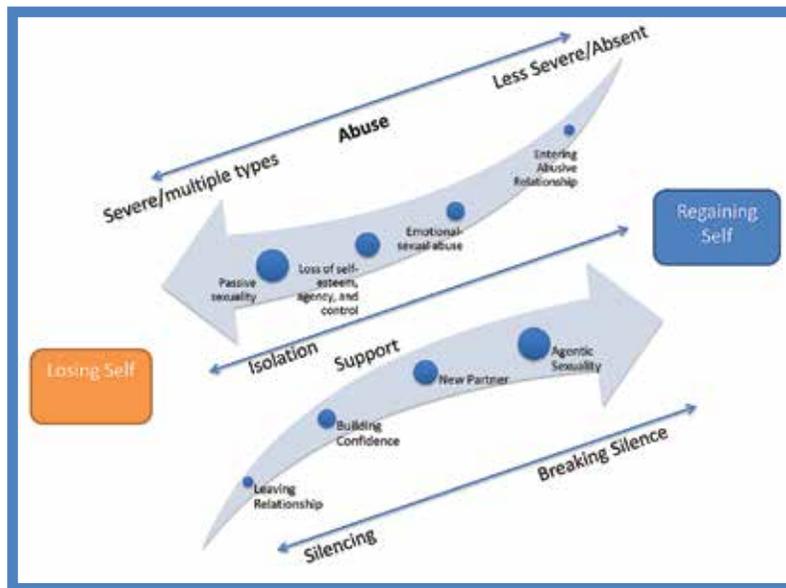
by Danaka R. Safinuk

I am so pleased to report that I have completed my Master's thesis research this summer with use of data from the *Healing Journey Study* (P.I. Jane Ursel). This article will briefly summarize my Master's thesis work. This thesis used qualitative methodology, and was titled *Female Sexuality and Intimate Partner Violence*. The focus of the qualitative study was to understand how intimate partner violence (IPV) impacts women's sexuality in a sample of women who have experienced IPV. Sexuality can include biological sex, sexual acts, sexual feelings, gender roles, and attitudes towards sexual behaviour. It is a dynamic construct that can be influenced by many factors, including experiences of violence and abuse. Experiencing abuse in intimate

relationships is one factor that can affect women in many ways, including their well-being, quality of life, and sexuality. A review of the literature describes the many existing barriers that make it difficult for women to develop a positive sexuality, and discuss what role IPV may have in this development. IPV has been shown to influence women's sexuality both directly, by a partner inflicting physical injuries and conditions that interfere with sexual functioning, and indirectly, through resulting lowered self-esteem, flash-back memories, mental health problems, and various other consequences of IPV. These findings support the need for research that examines both IPV and female sexuality together.

This thesis research project examined IPV survivors' experience of their sexuality by analyzing 31 qualitative interviews from the *Healing Journey Study*. Grounded theory methods were used to analyse the data, and a propositional theory was discovered. This theory states that IPV negatively impacts both sense of self and sexuality. Abusive partners could use sexuality and gender to impair the participants' self-worth and self-

confidence. Participants' identity and sexuality were inextricably linked to one another, where effects on one would impact the other. This reciprocal relationship was true for damage to self and sexuality, as well as the healing of self or sexuality. Therefore, factors that were discussed as impacting healing of sexuality (e.g. gaining sexual assertiveness) could also positively impact healing of self.



Damage to sense of self through abusive relationships could also act to damage sexuality, while regaining sense of self could contribute to the healing of sexuality (see diagram). The description of sexuality amongst the participants was often subtle, and was dependent upon the stage in which the participant was at in her healing. There was substantial variability among descriptions of sexuality, ranging from very negative and impacted

by abuse, to ambivalent, to positive. Often, women with negative descriptions of their sexuality were still in abusive relationships, or more recently out of them compared to participants who had positive or ambivalent descriptions. Safety, agency, and having a new partner were all common factors for women with a positive description of their sexuality.

It was discovered through this research that emotional abuse aimed at body size and shape, appearance, sexuality, and gender were very harmful to sexuality. The women in this sample helped to define a specific type of abuse that was referred to as "emotional-sexual abuse." These findings may inform future research attempting to understand specific types of abuse that have an impact on sexuality. More detailed results of this study will be presented at the RESOLVE Research Day (October 19 - focusing on aspects of healing and the impact of IPV on "self") and at the FREDA National Research Day (November 8-9 - focusing on the impact of emotional-sexual abuse on sexuality). ❀

## Alberta Update



by Nicole Letourneau

A lot has happened at RESOLVE Alberta lately! We wished our outgoing RESOLVE Academic Coordinator, Dr. Leslie Tutty and her assistant of many years, Ms. Carole Cillis-Stockwell, best wishes in their long-awaited and well deserved retirements. We also installed our new RESOLVE Academic Coordinator, **Dr. Nicole Letourneau** and her assistant, **Ms. Pradnya Khataavkar**. RESOLVE Alberta has moved to Dr. Letourneau's home faculty of Nursing in the Faculty of Nursing. Nicole and Pradnya extend sincere thanks to Leslie and Carole for their considerable help in making the transition so smooth. The RESOLVE Alberta office is now on the 4th floor of the Education Tower and welcomes visitors!

Dr. Letourneau is also the **Norlien & Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation** Chair in Parent-Infant Mental Health and she is embarking on establishing a new research program developing and testing attachment-based interventions for families affected by violence, addictions, and depression. These stressors often travel together in families. Dr. Letourneau is interested in interventions like this, with potential to reduce the intergenerational transmission of family trauma. Dr. Letourneau recently presented some of this research at the *International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect* conference in Istanbul. She spoke about how some mothers affected by intimate partner violence are able to compensate for their infant's exposure to violence by being more sensitive and responsive in interactions than the norm. It appears that babies are compensating too, by being more clear

in the cues they give their mothers and how responsive they are! Dr. Letourneau will also present this research at the RESOLVE Research Day in Regina. ☘



Nicole Letourneau

**November is Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta**  
*Speak up for those who are silenced.*



Family Violence Info Line\*  
 310-1818

*People may hear or see something they feel is not quite right with a family, friend, neighbour or co-worker. If you think someone you know is experiencing family violence, reach out by calling the Family Violence Info Line at 310-1818, toll-free 24/7.*

*\*Help is available in more than 170 languages*

*Truth...* cont'd from page 1

in a reduction in the conviction rate? There are many questions that arise when the established means of “doing justice” change. Will this change be for the better or will it make things worse for the victim? These are the questions we will pursue in our analysis of the Winnipeg Family Violence Court over the next two years. We will report on the outcome.

The second amendment to the CCC deals with the Sentencing Act section 742.1, which states that “If a person is convicted of an offence and the court imposes a sentence of imprisonment of less than two years, the court may order that the offender serve the sentence in the community” (i.e. their home) (Canada Gazette [www.gazette.gc.ca](http://www.gazette.gc.ca)). Of particular concern to us is the frequency with which individuals convicted and sentenced to incarceration receive a conditional sentence. This is the case for child sexual abuse offenders (14%) and individuals convicted of child pornography (47%). This amendment has not yet been put in force. We will watch to see if the amendment has an effect on the worrisome pattern of sentencing perpetrators of child sexual abuse or individuals convicted of child pornography to doing their “time” in their home. One of the advantages of a



long-term study of the family violence court is that we can chart before and after patterns to see if changes or amendments in law or policy have the intended effect, that is, to make society safer and protect vulnerable people. We hope that in both of these instances that will be the effect. ☘

*My thanks to Professor Debra Parkes, University of Manitoba Faculty of Law, in assisting my navigation through the turgid waters of legislative language.*

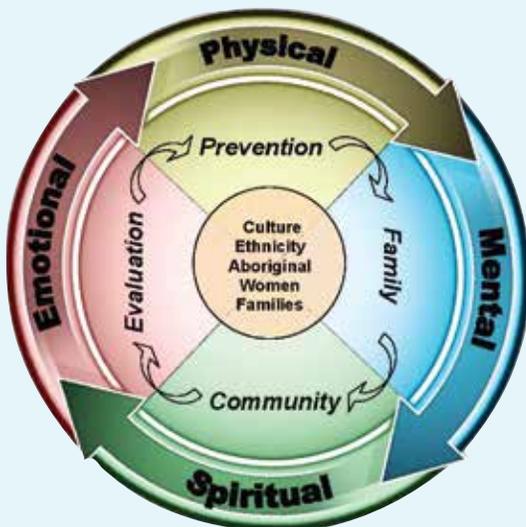
## RESOLVE Research Day 2012: Ways of Healing

Research Day 2012 will be held **October 18–19, 2012** in Regina, Saskatchewan, at the Regina Inn and Conference Centre. This event is presented by RESOLVE Saskatchewan.

Inspired by the Healing Wheel, conference topics include:

- Physical, mental, spiritual, and/or emotional healing
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- Community-based program implementation and evaluation
- Institutional healing (human rights conventions, civil/constitutional law, government policy)
- Other ways of healing

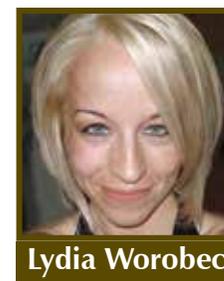
For more information contact Mary Hampton or Ann Bishop at **306-337-2511** or **RESOLVE @uregina.ca**.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are so pleased to announce that **Lydia Worobec**, a hardworking and productive member of the RESOLVE Manitoba team, has received the prestigious *Manitoba Health Research Council Studentship Award* for her study of the rising rate of prenatal alcohol exposure among women of higher socioeconomic status. Congratulations Lydia on this well-deserved recognition of your outstanding work.



Lydia Worobec

## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



**October 16 & 17, 2012 - Domestic Violence & the Workplace: Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategies Conference**, a collaborative venture of Western University, London, ON, the London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse and Fanshawe College. The conference will be held in the Hilton Hotel in London, ON. For more information refer to [www.crvawc.ca](http://www.crvawc.ca).

**October 18–19, 2012 - RESOLVE Research Day 2012: Ways of Healing** presented by RESOLVE Saskatchewan in Regina, Saskatchewan at the Regina Inn Hotel and Conference Centre. Please refer to [www.uregina.ca/resolve/RESOLVE/Research%20Day%202012.htm](http://www.uregina.ca/resolve/RESOLVE/Research%20Day%202012.htm) for more information, or contact Mary Hampton or Ann Bishop at **306-337-2577** or [RESOLVE@uregina.ca](mailto:RESOLVE@uregina.ca).

**November 1–2, 2012 - Revisiting The Intersection Of Batterer Intervention and Substance Abuse** presented by the Batterer Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn, Detroit Livonia Conference Center in Livonia, Michigan, USA. Revisiting the Intersection of Batterer Intervention and Substance Abuse will bring practitioners from around the country to present, discuss, inspire and challenge our thinking in ways which will aid in the development of enhanced and additional means to our work in ending domestic violence. For more information refer to [biscmi.org/bipsaintersection](http://biscmi.org/bipsaintersection), telephone Peaty Hershberger at **517-482-3933**, or e-mail [peatyh@cablespeed.com](mailto:peatyh@cablespeed.com).

**November 7–9, 2012 - National Research Day: Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence: Exploring the Continuum of Violence Against Women and Girls**, hosted by the FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children. The event will be held in Vancouver, BC, at the Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown. Conference inquiries can be directed to [NRDay@sfu.ca](mailto:NRDay@sfu.ca).

**February 26– March 1, 2013 - Canadian Domestic Violence Conference 3: New Directions in Practice, Research and Collaboration** presented by the Canadian Association of Social Workers. The event will be held in Toronto, ON. This conference will showcase the grassroots initiatives that are happening across the country to address intimate partner violence. The presentations will be made by community-based groups as well as academics and government agencies. Some of these organizations include women's shelters, Partner Abuse Response (PAR) programs, probation offices, victim services offices, counselling centres, private practice. The focus of this Conference is to help foster effective conversations with women and men about domestic violence in these various professional contexts. For more information e-mail [bridges@bridgesinstitute.org](mailto:bridges@bridgesinstitute.org).

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



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Web site: **www.prairieaction.ca**

## ***New Executive Director, Web Site, and Contact Information***



Our website has been refreshed and reorganized to make it easier for visitors to find what they are looking for. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

We will be announcing the recipients of our *2012 Community Action Research and Education (CARE)* grants shortly and, later this fall, will be placing our call for letters of intent for the 2013 CARE grants.

Welcome to our new Executive Director, **Louise Waldman**, who started with PAF on September 4. Louise has over two decades of experience working in public and media relations, advertising and branding, community engagement and fundraising. She has held senior management positions in the public and not-for-profit sectors, most recently working in public relations for the **CBC** in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and then as the Director of Corporate Communications for the **Canadian Wheat Board**. A Winnipeg native, Louise is an active community volunteer who has worked with diverse groups including the **YW-YMCA**, **Women's Health Clinic**, **North End Women's Resource Centre** and the **Spence Neighbourhood Association**. ☘

### ***RESOLVE Manitoba***

*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## Mothers and Infants Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence



by Nicole Letourneau

**C**hildren exposed to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) have been found to experience severe after effects, including emotional and behavioural problems and social and cognitive problems. However, some children from families with IPV develop well or are "resilient" in spite of this risk, creating the impetus for an increased understanding of ways to support the healthy development of children exposed to IPV. Given that some mothers of preschool-age children exposed to IPV may be more sensitive and responsive to their children than other mothers, and the early mother-child relationship is known to be a potent predictor of children's developmental outcomes, the early mother-child relationship may be an important protective factor for children in families affected by IPV.

Hughes and Luke\* suggest that the mother-infant relationship may moderate the impacts of IPV on development. Indeed, one of the most potent predictors of children's developmental success is their relationship or interaction with a parent (usually the mother). Optimal mother-infant interactions are characterized by parental sensitivity to infant needs, responsiveness, social-emotional growth fostering, and cognitive growth fostering activities. In this study, we wanted to know how mothers exposed to violence interact with their infants. Do they compensate or does the violence spillover to affect their relationships with their infants?

### Methods

This study employed quantitative and qualitative methods. The sample consisted of 51 mother-infant pairs from Atlantic Canada who reported experience

of violence consistent with the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) criteria. Mothers reported living with a violent partner when they had an infant under the age of 12 months and that they were no longer in the violent relationship or that they were in the relationship, but currently accessed services for IPV. The average age of the children was just under 24 months while the average age of mothers was approximately 29 years. The length of children's exposure to IPV ranged from one to 30 months.

During qualitative semi-structured interviews, mothers were asked to describe their experience parenting their child while in a violent relationship, and how they believed it affected their parenting, their child, and themselves. Mother-child relationship quality was assessed using the *Nursing Child Assessment Teaching Scale* (NCATS), which is a video observational measure. The NCATS is the most widely used measure of mother-child interaction, and provides a binary measure of 73 behavioural items that assess the presence of sensitivity and responsiveness in relationships with higher scores representing more optimal mother-infant interactions. Specific NCATS subscales examine

*Mothers and Infants Exposed... cont'd on page 6*

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3. RESOLVE Manitoba Update
4. RESOLVE Saskatchewan Update
5. RESOLVE Alberta Update
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7. Announcements, Conferences & Events
8. Prairieaction Update

## WISH Inc. (Women in Second Stage Housing) Celebrates 25 Years of Helping Women and Their Children Build Better Tomorrows



by Lori Rudniski, Executive Director, WISH Inc.

### SAFETY, COURAGE, STRENGTH



**A**t WISH Inc., *Safety, Courage, and Strength* are more than just words—these are the actions that have guided our work for over 25 years, and continue to be our solid foundation as we move towards the future. From the very beginning, when a group of inspiring people in the community and government saw a need, we have seen this courage in action. Building on the success of short term emergency shelters, these pioneers set out to provide safe housing and longer-term support for the women and their children who attempt to make concrete changes in their lives. These women and children needed support and a place to live so as to not to return to a home filled with violence and harm. In 1986, WISH Inc. opened its doors as the first second-stage program in Manitoba.

Since then, we see this strength everyday in the women we serve, from their initial decision to come to the WISH Program through to their graduation day that celebrates their year of success and growth, and beyond.

These are the courageous women who have made the difficult choice to leave their home and seek safety and help for themselves and their children. They are in their 20's 30's 40's and beyond. Their

children may be babies, toddlers, school age and teenagers. These are the women who know there is a life free from violence for themselves and their children but need help to turn their hope into reality. They know that even though they may leave with little, except what they can carry with them, they are determined to build a better life free from abuse. They want their children to be safe, happy, and free from fear. For many, they are breaking the cycle of violence that they, too, had to experience when they were children.

Throughout the years, we have had the honour of seeing these families standing taller and walking prouder as they feel safer and more confident in their new life free from violence. Although many of the challenges of building a new life may continue, these women and their children can meet these hurdles with a stronger belief in themselves, and their strength of skills and knowledge.

Looking forward to the next 25 years, we know

that our agency will continue to grow and expand to meet the needs of the women and children we serve. The work continues, but the safety, courage, and strength of all perseveres in building great tomorrows!

To find out more about WISH Inc. (Women in Second Stage Housing), please check out our website at [wishinc.ca](http://wishinc.ca), e-mail us at [wishinc@mymts.net](mailto:wishinc@mymts.net), or call our office at **204-275-2600**. ☘



*On September 27, 2012, over 240 friends of WISH Inc. heard the amazing talents of Manitoba's own **Sierra Noble**, the clever wit of emcee **Jon Ljunberg**, and celebrated over 25 years of helping women and their children break free from violence.*

## Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

### New Projects

**R**ESOLVE continues its work on issues of trauma with **Klinic Community Health Centre** through a project entitled *Developing an Online Trauma Informed Training Workshop: A Formative Evaluation*. Based on funding from the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Klinic will develop an online version of their trauma-informed workshop. RESOLVE will help in this process by contacting previous workshop participants and asking them for feedback on the workshop, and their views and suggestions for transferring it to an online format. Feedback will be obtained through brief questionnaires e-mailed to participants, and phone interviews with selected participants. The project will conclude in Spring 2013.



### Information Sharing

Communicating our research results is a high priority for RESOLVE. In addition to our books and published articles, attending conferences and presenting papers is an excellent means of sharing our results with practitioners in the field. This Fall, RESOLVE staff and students have been busy presenting data from several of our studies at conferences in Western Canada. **Jane Ursel** presented findings from the **Healing Journey** study on the *The Costs of Abuse and the Promise of Intervention* at the RESOLVE Research Day in Regina. Preliminary results show that women who can leave abusive relationships are much more likely to pursue education and employment than women who still cope with abuse. **Jocelyn Proulx** and our community partner, **Suhad Bisharat** (Laurel Centre), presented results from their study of men sexually abused as children *Of Myths and Men: Suppressing Disclosures of Childhood Sexual Abuse*. They generously offered to send their

extensive bibliography to anyone who made a request. If you are interested, contact Jocelyn at [proulxjb@ad.umanitoba.ca](mailto:proulxjb@ad.umanitoba.ca).

On November 7, Jane Ursel, **Cheryl Fraehlich** and **Marta Krygier** attended the *National Research Day* in Vancouver. The theme of this conference was *Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence: Exploring the Continuum of Violence Against Women and Girls*. Cheryl presented a paper with data from the Winnipeg Family Violence Court entitled *Seeking Justice: Issues of Race and Gender in a Specialized Family Violence Court*. Jane and Marta presented a paper on child sexual abuse cases heard in the Winnipeg Family Violence Court. Jane also presented a paper on the two different

types of information RESOLVE collects—one from institutional sources, for example police and court documents, and another type of information we receive from women's own stories of their abuse and help seeking behaviour. She suggested that these mixed methodologies provide a rich source of information, and combining the two sources of data fill gaps and enrich our understanding of the dynamics of abuse and the process of intervention.

Communicating our research results is always an important issue for academics and service providers alike. However, content analysis of public media indicates that women's voices are seriously underrepresented in newspaper articles and the electronic media. In December 2012, RESOLVE Manitoba and the University of Manitoba sponsor two workshops for academic women and one workshop for service providers to increase women's voices in public discourse. ❀

## Saskatchewan Update



by Mary Hampton, Ann Bishop, and Eric Oleson

**A**nother successful research day was put on in Regina, Saskatchewan. **Ann Bishop**, Conference coordinator, did a wonderful job making sure all came off without a hitch. Pictures are thanks to **Eric Oleson**, our resident creative genius.

We opened the conference with the Dessert Social on the evening of Thursday, October 18. This event gave us a chance to hear from those who brought greetings from various sectors, including the Saskatchewan government, Prairieaction Foundation, University of Regina, and Luther College.



*The Honourable  
Dr. Lillian Dyck*

Our guiding Elder, **Betty McKenna**, opened the conference with a traditional prayer. **The Honourable Dr. Lillian Dyck** (member of the Senate of Canada from Saskatchewan), gave the opening keynote address. Dr. Dyck is an Aboriginal scientist who always attends our events and is very supportive of our work. She spoke very movingly about being harassed as an academic,

and her healing to rise as a Canadian senator. Professor **Sarah Abbott** shared her film entitled *This Time Last Winter* at the lunch session.

Professor Abbott has received the Lieutenant Governor's Arts Award as a result of her innovative teaching and work. She brings her productions to the community so that we can involve all in healing from experiences of abuse and violence. She hosted a question and answer session following the film to answer questions about this anti-violence work.



*Sarah Abbott*

A unique feature in our conference was the healing room, hosted by Elder **Betty McKenna**. The healing room is a space intended for people who may get "triggered" by the content in the conference. They can then go for assistance, safety, and peace in this space.



*Dr. Mary Hampton*



*Wendy Kubik's & Brenda Anderson's  
presentation*

We had 23 sessions throughout the day on Friday. Presenters came from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Northwest

Territories. Each session was interesting and timely. Just under 100 folks attended—academics, researchers, and service providers from community agencies. Members of RESOLVE Saskatchewan's steering committee donated their time to host the sessions. Volunteers from RESOLVE Saskatchewan, the SSHRC/CURA, and **Dr. Hampton's** psychology of women class assisted Ann with the heavy lifting, etc.

Once received, presentations will be uploaded for viewing on our website at [www.uregina.ca/resolve](http://www.uregina.ca/resolve). ☘



(l-r): *Darlene Juschka & Ann Bishop*

## Alberta Update: New Alberta-led Team Seeking to Help Mothers and Young Children Cope With Toxic Stress



by Nicole Letourneau

### Family violence is a toxic stressor

**M**others suffering from *toxic stress*, such as family violence and/or prolonged depression are often consumed by the effort of coping with the difficulties of their everyday lives. Not surprisingly, many of these mothers are challenged to respond sensitively and appropriately to meet the needs of their developing infants. In this way, toxic stress can interfere with the formation of *secure parent-infant attachments*, necessary for healthy infant and child development. Secure attachment represents the infant's emerging expectation that his or her basic needs for soothing, comfort and protection from danger will be met by his or her caregiver. Meta-analyses suggest that while secure parent-infant attachment predicts optimal health and developmental outcomes in children, insecure attachment and particularly, disorganized attachment, predicts symptoms of depression and anxiety, displays of aggression, conduct problems, hostility and psychopathology in children and adults. Exposure to toxic stress related to family dysfunction and abuse in early childhood, has even been associated with the leading causes of adult morbidity, mortality and disability including cardiovascular disease, chronic lung and liver disease, depression and other mental illnesses, as well as obesity, smoking, alcohol and drug abuse. This long list of physical and mental health problems suggests pathways for intergenerational transmission of the effects of toxic stress.



### Responding to calls for interventions to address toxic stress

In 2012, the American Academy of Pediatrics produced a landmark document calling for interventions to address the effects of toxic stress. This sentiment is echoed in *Let's Talk About the Early Years*, produced by the Government of Alberta, which recommends that intervention start earlier to reduce the impact of toxic stressors on infants and preschoolers. Attachment interventions may help address the effects of toxic stress exposure as they demonstrate improvements in infant irritability/difficultness, children's behaviour, emotional regulation and neurocognitive development, even

among children exposed to violence and maltreatment. Attachment interventions also reduce maternal stress and depressive symptoms and improve maternal-infant relationships. In response, the Canadian Attachment Network- Action Team on Triadic Attachment and Child Health (CAN-ATTACH) has been created to develop an innovative attachment intervention to help these mother and their young children.

### Innovative attachment intervention

In spite of the promise of attachment interventions to address the effects of toxic stress, most have not been evaluated in community-service settings that many mothers access. Traditional attachment intervention models have almost exclusively focused on (some might say, excessively burden) mothers and have not meaningfully included mothers' sources of maternal-infant support in their intervention design. Glaring omissions include grandparents and siblings who – in impoverished and/or extended families from various cultures – often play significant roles in helping young children feel safe and prepare for the outside world, stepping in to parent in support of mothers or in their stead when they are unable or unwilling to care for their infants. Unmarried and divorced mothers typically receive some form of support for their parenting through their extended family, especially during infancy. Existing attachment interventions that do not meaningfully involve mothers' main sources of co-parenting support may be limited in their usefulness for mothers and infants affected by family violence. This is why CAN-ATTACH focuses on the "triad" of mother, infant, and mother's main source of support (the triad).

CAN-ATTACH has thus been created to develop, test and disseminate an innovative attachment intervention that could be integrated into community services for mothers, young children and mothers' primary sources of co-parenting support. We have begun the search for funding and, ultimately CAN-ATTACH seeks to reduce the transmission of intergenerational violence via reducing the effects of toxic stress on mothers and infants. ❧

### *Mothers and Infants Exposed...* cont'd from page 1

maternal sensitivity to infant cues, responsiveness to distress, social–emotional and cognitive growth fostering activities, infant clarity of cues, and responsiveness to caregiver. Mothers and infants scores were compared to those in the NCATS normative database of thousands of mothers from various walks of life.

#### Results

NCATS mean scores were compared to those of mothers from lower– (grade 12 or less) and higher– (at least some community college or university) educated groups in the NCATS database. On two of four subscales (sensitivity to cues and cognitive growth fostering activities), abused mothers' scores were significantly higher (suggesting more optimal interactions), than the normative NCATS means for either lower educated or higher–educated mothers. However, on two of the subscales (responsiveness to infant distress and social–emotional growth fostering activities), abused mothers' mean scores were significantly lower than the NCATS database, suggesting less optimal interactions than the norms. Children also had a role to play, as they had significantly higher scores on their subscales (clarity of cues and responsiveness to caregiver) than infants in the NCATS normative database. In other words, these infants were very clear in communicating their needs to their caregivers and were more responsive.

Qualitative data revealed that many mothers reported having a stronger relationship with their child because of their experience with IPV. Mothers specifically described how violence interfered with their relationship with their child and how they tried to “make up” for their child's exposure to violence through their interaction. Some ways mothers tried to compensate for, or offset, the negative experiences of their child included: being more soothing, more engaged in playtime, and protective. One mother said, *“I tried to cuddle her more and stuff like that because of everything that she had to see.”*

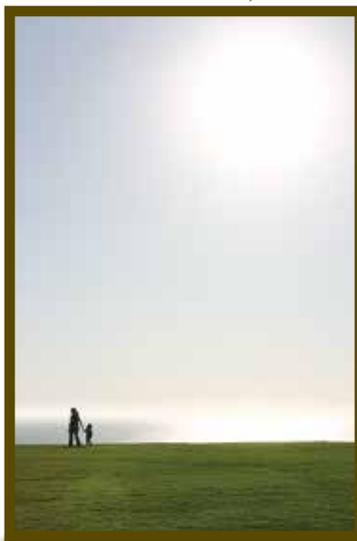
Consistent with the quantitative findings suggesting improved interactions in most, but not all domains, some mothers spoke of a negative impact. Ten thought the bond with their child was delayed or weakened, 14 spoke about being robotic or not really engaged, 11 indicated that they had been too afraid at times to focus on their mothering, and eight reported being emotionally

unavailable, ex. ignoring crying. One mother described being like *“a robot doing the things that have to be done, but you are not necessarily doing the extra or the fun things.”* Fear interfered with mothers' care giving by making them emotionally distressed, and focused on avoiding violent outbreaks, which could be precipitated by their care giving or the child's behaviour: *“I didn't want to say anything or play with him the wrong way to make <ex-partner> mad or ‘Oh you shouldn't do it that way’. So I just kind of, just watched him basically.”* This created a hostile environment for mothers' care giving, and several mothers thought, in retrospect, that they were “robbed” of part of their child's life, clearly addressing the spillover hypothesis.

#### Discussion

The significantly higher sample mean scores for the NCATS caregiver sensitivity to cues and cognitive growth fostering subscales compared to the norms suggest that many mothers and infants succeed in compensating for the exposure to IPV. Indeed, an unanticipated finding was that in both NCATS child subscales, children provided clearer cues and were more responsive to their mothers than the norms. These infants' behaviours might also explain mothers' lower (in comparison with the normative sample) mean scores on the responsiveness to distress NCATS subscale. Perhaps mothers did not have to ‘respond to distress’ as the infants were so clear about making their needs known and parents so sensitive, that infants did not become “distressed”. Nonetheless, mothers in this sample scored lower on NCATS response to distress and social emotional growth fostering subscales, suggesting some spillover. Taken together, these findings infer that interaction guidance for mothers and infants exposed to violence can approach families from a strengths–based stance, reinforcing the many positive aspect of interaction and suggesting some areas for future focus to maximize compensation and minimize spillover of IPV into maternal–infant relationships. ❁

*\*Article references available upon request.*



## Announcements, Conferences and Events



**November 25–December 10, 2012 - *The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.*** November 25—the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women—marks the first day of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, and December 10—International Human Rights Day—is the final day. The 16 Days of Activism is recognized internationally.

**December 6, 2012 - *Sunrise Memorial*** hosted by The Manitoba Women's Advisory Council (Status of Women), 8 - 9 a.m., in the Rotunda, Legislative Building, 450 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**December 10, 2012 - *Human Rights Day***

**January 23–31, 2013 - *27th Annual San Diego International Conference On Child and Family Maltreatment*** presented by the Chadwick Center for Children and Families, in San Diego, CA, USA. The objective of the San Diego Conference is to develop and enhance professional skills and knowledge in the prevention, recognition, assessment and treatment of all forms of maltreatment including those related to family violence as well as to enhance investigative and legal skills. In-depth issues include support for families, prevention, leadership, policy-making. Translating the latest research into action is also addressed. For more information refer to [www.sandiegoconference.org](http://www.sandiegoconference.org).

**February 26–March 1, 2013 - *Canadian Domestic Violence Conference 3: New Directions in Practice, Research and Collaboration***, co-sponsored by Bridges and the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, Gail Appel Institute. The event will be held at the Delta Chelsea Hotel and Conference Centre in Toronto, Ontario. While centering primarily on men's violence against women, the Conference will also provide the opportunity to highlight conversations that are often on the margins of the domestic violence field, including violence in same-sex relationships; violence with people with disabilities; in aboriginal relationships; first generation immigrant relationships; and straight women's perpetration of abuse. For more information refer to [www.canadiandomesticviolenceconference.ca](http://www.canadiandomesticviolenceconference.ca), or contact **Shannon Holcomb** at **416-972-1935**, extension **3340**; or e-mail [sholcomb@hincksdellcrest.org](mailto:sholcomb@hincksdellcrest.org) or [training@hincksdellcrest.org](mailto:training@hincksdellcrest.org).

*National Day of Remembrance and  
Action on Violence Against Women*

# December 6

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. 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.

As well as commemorating the 14 young women whose lives ended in an act of gender-based violence that shocked the nation, December 6 represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society. This day is also an opportunity to consider the women and girls for who violence is a daily reality, and to remember those who have died as a result of gender-based violence. And finally, it is a day on which communities can consider concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

Source: [www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/vaw-vff/index-eng.html](http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/vaw-vff/index-eng.html)

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*We're finding solutions to protect women and children from violence and abuse!*

Phone: **1-877-926-8129** or **(204) 983-1234**

E-mail: **prairieactioninfo@gmail.com**

Web site: **www.prairieaction.ca**

Prairieaction Foundation would like to congratulate the following recipients of the **2012 Community Action, Research & Education (CARE) Grants**. This program furthers our goal to support community-based research into solutions to violence and abuse by funding qualifying charitable organizations to do research projects that identify potential strategies, models and methods to ultimately eliminate these issues.

**Family Services Regina** (Regina, SK) – *Targets' Experience of Stalking*, \$10,000

**Young Women's Christian Association of Brandon** (Brandon, MB) – *Mothering, Guiding and Responding to Children: Are There Differences for Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence?*, \$2,000

**Ndinawemaaganag Endaawad Inc.** (Winnipeg, MB) – *Evaluation of the Ndinawe Child and Youth Care Certificate Program*, \$9,801

You can find out more about these projects on our website at [www.prairieaction.ca](http://www.prairieaction.ca).



### 2013 CARE Grants Program NOTICE

The *Call for Letters of Intent* for those interested in receiving a 2013 CARE grant is now available on the Prairieaction Foundation website, [www.prairieaction.ca](http://www.prairieaction.ca). All *Letters of Intent* must be submitted by January 11, 2013. Applicants will be notified by January 28, 2013, if they are invited to submit a full application. Full applications are due by March 15, 2013.

If you have any questions about the CARE Grants program, contact our Executive Director, **Louise Waldman**, at [lwaldman@prairieaction.ca](mailto:lwaldman@prairieaction.ca). ☞

#### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *Saskatchewan's Housing Crisis: Addressing the Needs of Women and Children Who Have Experienced Violence*



*by Diane Delaney and Stacey Kesten, PATHS: Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan*

A report entitled *I Built My House of Hope: Best practices to safely house abused and homeless women* was published by **Dr. Leslie Tutty** in Fall 2009. The report examined models of emergency and second stage shelters that best address women's housing needs; and what models and strategies might better assist women at high risk of becoming homeless, to access safe, affordable and permanent housing. Our study was built on Tutty's work and examines the experiences of 35 women from Saskatchewan. Our view is that it is not until one hears and reads about women's experiences that one can come to understand what homelessness really means.

Interviewees described the challenges that come with homelessness. Some participants explained how they often had to sleep rough, at times with their children. They reported staying in abandoned houses, sleeping in hallways, and setting up house in tents. These women also described a pattern of bouncing around from place to place. As one participant explained:

*"Because, of course, I have to move around all the time, and then next there's the social workers and the family workers [who say], 'Why are you moving so much?' [I reply] 'Well, find me a decent house! Pay for a house that's something that you would live in, and then I'll stop moving!'"*

Research participants identified a lack of affordable housing in Saskatchewan as one of the most powerful

barriers keeping women from exiting dangerous, abusive, and violent situations. Participants explained that they simply had nowhere else to go.

We heard that landlords play a key role in the lives of the interviewed women. Some were generous in providing housing at below-market rates in order to lend a helping hand, while others were exploitative. Women perceived that they had no control over their ability to stay in the accommodation, over the physical condition of the home, or over the size of rent increases. There was a clear power imbalance between landlord and tenant.

The role of family members, positive and negative, and the effect of their children's exposure to violence and abuse were the two topics most talked about by research participants. Most women realized the impact that their own life experiences had on their children, and they identified that a stable home is a priority.

Participants also spoke of their desire to live in a safe

*Saskatchewan's Housing Crisis... cont'd on page 6*

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7. Workshops, Conferences and Events
8. Prairieaction Update

## Ending Physical Punishment of Children as a Family Violence Prevention Strategy



by Joan E. Durrant

This article is a follow-up to **Learning at the Parent's Knee**, published in the RESOLVE December 2010 newsletter.

The most thoroughly documented correlate of physical punishment in childhood is increased aggression in the child. More than 30 studies have been conducted on this relationship, and each one has led to the same conclusion—regardless of where the study was conducted, the ages of the children, the socioeconomic status of the parents, or a range of other variables. An ever-growing number of studies have shown that this relationship is not just correlational, but causal: physical punishment directly increases the risk of aggression and violence in children and youth. This aggression can take the form of physical fighting, bullying, antisocial behaviour or dating violence. And this relationship continues into adulthood. Adults who were physically punished as children are more likely to physically aggress against their partners and their own children.



Therefore, ending physical punishment must be a component of an effective violence prevention initiative. But this strategy has unique challenges, not the least of which is the social acceptability of physical punishment of children. It is the only form of interpersonal aggression that remains both legal and approved by a substantial proportion of the population. A strategy to end physical punishment requires an intensive level of public education about its risks and a societal shift in parents' conceptions of the meaning of discipline.

One region where efforts to end physical punishment are rapidly gaining strength is Southeast Asia. I have been fortunate to have travelled to Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan and Thailand to contribute to their efforts to shift cultural norms so that parents no longer strike their children. A major challenge faced in these countries, as in Canada, is to help parents find answers to the question, "What do I do instead?"

Governments and NGOs are looking for easy-to-use tools for conveying the meaning of constructive discipline.

I have partnered with **Save the Children**, an international NGO committed to ending violence in children's lives, to develop an approach to discipline that crosses cultural boundaries and is inexpensive to implement. Called **Positive Discipline**<sup>1</sup>, this approach is based on research findings on healthy child development and effective parenting, and on the principle of children's right to protection. The approach focuses parents' thinking on the essence of childrearing: what kind of people do we want our children to be as adults? Interestingly, wherever I go, parents answer this question in the same way—they want their children to grow into kind, empathic, nonviolent, respectful, adults with healthy relationships. Parents simply need to connect their own behaviour to those long-term goals. The Positive Discipline manual guides them through this process.

The approach seems to be resonating across cultures. To date, the manual has been translated into 17 languages. The approach is being implemented by the Ministries of Education in Thailand and Mongolia in an effort to end caning and other physical and humiliating punishments in schools. The goal of these efforts is to help adults around the world find new ways of resolving conflict that do not involve hitting or hurting a child. By teaching children nonviolently, we will provide them with some of the fundamental tools they will need to manage conflict without violence throughout their lives. ❧

<sup>1</sup> **Positive Discipline: What It Is and How To Do It** is available for free download at [www.cheo.on.ca/uploads/AboutUs/Files/js\\_positive\\_discipline.pdf](http://www.cheo.on.ca/uploads/AboutUs/Files/js_positive_discipline.pdf). Hard copies are available from the Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs [www.frp.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=475](http://www.frp.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=475).

## Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

**T**his is a wonderful opportunity to send a quick note on my experience with international collaborative research from my vantage point in Australia. RESOLVE is involved in a number of international projects—including the Justice Observatory—with colleagues in the US, the UK and Australia; the small replication of the Healing Journey in New South Wales (NSW); and the twinning of the Winnipeg Family Violence Court with the Domestic Violence Court in Canberra. These projects have led to some very fruitful exchanges among magistrates, judges, prosecutors and victim service workers between our two courts.

In November, I was invited to Canberra by the Chief Magistrate, who is responsible for the Domestic Violence court, to speak about the Winnipeg Family Violence Court experience. It was so interesting to talk to practitioners about their work in Australia and there are some remarkable similarities. For example, we all struggle with victim ambivalence about the criminal justice process. There are also some surprising differences, such as convicted offenders almost never get a sentence of incarceration in Canberra, while it is not unusual for a repeat offender to receive a jail sentence in a Manitoba court.

On the same trip I was also invited to speak at the Australia National University about longitudinal studies in the Canadian context, where I spoke about the Healing Journey study. My Australian colleagues were very interested in expansion of a small study done in NSW to a larger project. I look forward to further discussions with them on this possibility. On my second day in Canberra, I was invited to speak to the Australian Reconciliation Commission about RESOLVE'S work with the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This was a moving and powerful exchange of information. Our Australian colleagues plan to organize an International Reconciliation Conference in 2012, which will provide a global opportunity to learn from one another.

I have been privileged to meet so many colleagues and see the value of international research first-hand and have also been gratified by the keen interest and high esteem Australians have for the work we do in Canada. ❧



RESOLVE SASKATCHEWAN PRESENTS

### Rebecca Kotz

*National Missing Persons Coordination Centre, Australian Federal Police*

PUBLIC LECTURE  
**Tuesday, March 1, 2011**

**3 P.M.**

**Luther Auditorium**

Regina, Saskatchewan

*The talk will include:*

- The extent of the missing persons problem in Australia
- Australia's response to the issue of missing persons, including supports for families

*RESOLVE Saskatchewan thanks Saskatchewan's Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons, and Luther College for their support and assistance.*

## *Saskatchewan Update: Working with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission*



*by Robyn Morin*

**R**ESOLVE Saskatchewan was invited to become partner statement-gatherers with the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** (TRC) in mid 2010. We trained 12 statement gatherers; most attended the national event in Winnipeg in June, 2010. All statement gatherers are Aboriginal and all care deeply about the healing process of relatives who attended residential schools. We also are thankful for this opportunity to allow Elders and relatives to speak their truth.

In Saskatchewan, we have developed a strong network that consists of our interviewers, the **Health Canada Regional Health Support Workers**, and **Kim Quinney**. In early December, RESOLVE Saskatchewan Project Coordinator, **Robyn Morin**, was invited to meet with **Peter McCallum** from Health Canada and other Regional Health Support Workers in Saskatoon. We began the conference with team-building exercises, where laughter and movement were intertwined in order to promote personal and professional development. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen the relationship between RESOLVE and the Health Support Workers, which inadvertently benefits the survivors that we interact with. The conference was beneficial as new relationships were formed between RESOLVE and the Health Support Workers, which indirectly benefits survivors.

RESOLVE had an opportunity to meet with the Regional Health Support Workers and the new Saskatchewan TRC Representative, Kim Quinney, at a “meet and

greet”, where representatives from all agencies were able to come together. At this meeting future plans were developed for the TRC’s work in Saskatchewan. Before she became the Saskatchewan TRC Representative, the Health Support Workers and RESOLVE worked alongside Kim at various outreach events.



*Robyn Morin*

RESOLVE Saskatchewan has been working alongside the Regional Health Support Workers in an effort to support residential school survivors as they come forward to share their stories. The Regional Health Support Workers are on the frontline, and assist survivors as they share their experiences in court. Most of these Health Support Workers are former residential school survivors themselves, and many are willing to share their own experiences with RESOLVE Statement Gatherers to help them better understand the intergenerational effects of the residential school era. This work requires strong, trusting relationships

among RESOLVE statement-gatherers, Health Support Workers, the TRC, and communities. We continue to work together, offering presentations in Aboriginal communities as a way to build this trust. RESOLVE, Health Support Workers and the TRC believe it is essential to build strong trusting relationships with each other, and within communities, in order for survivors to come forward and share their experiences. RESOLVE, Health Support Workers and the TRC will continue to work together and offer presentations in Aboriginal communities as a way to build trusting relationships and educate survivors on the mandate of the TRC. ☸

## Alberta Update



by Leslie M. Tutty

**R**ecently we completed the report *No Longer Silent: Persons with Disabilities who have been Abused Identify their Service Needs*, authored by **Leslie M. Tutty, Bianca Giurgiu, Kelli Moorey, Sarah Anne LeDrew, and Choni Tenzin**. The report was prepared for the **Action Committee on Disabilities and Abuse** of Calgary's **Alliance to End Violence**. The Action Committee on Disabilities and Abuse is a collaborative network of researchers, domestic and sexual violence service providers, and disability service providers who came together out of a mutual concern for persons with disabilities who experience abuse.

The Research Advisory Team for this project consisted of **Linda White**, former executive director of the Alliance to End Violence; **Karen Walroth**, past executive director of the Alliance to End Violence; and Kelli Moorey, past Persons with Disabilities Coordinator. Project team members included **Eva Chan**, *Alliance to End Violence – Older Persons Initiative*; **Carol Fredrec**, *Multiple Sclerosis Society*; **Maggie Mackillop** and **Liz Frazer**, *HomeFront*; **Chad Goebel**, *Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre*; and **Debb Hurlock**, *United Way/Faculty of Social Work*. The project received funding from the **Prairieaction Foundation** and the **Calgary Foundation**. Without this support the current evaluation could not have been conducted. Many thanks!

This research is the second phase of a project conducted by RESOLVE Alberta. The first report was an environmental scan of services specific to individuals with disabilities who have been abused in some manner; and qualitative interviews with 20 Calgary service representatives from both the disabilities and the family violence sectors. The second phase comprised interviews with ten women with disabilities who experienced abuse at some point. The purpose was to gather their experiences and impressions about the services that they did or did not receive to assist them in coping with the abuse.

Interviewees' discussions about services focused mainly on difficulties accessing such basic needs as finances, housing, food, transportation, employment and food. Given that six of the ten women were living

in emergency shelters for abused women at the time they were interviewed, this should not be surprising. When we spoke to them, all were in transition and were in the process of accessing services to meet these core needs.

A major difficulty identified by the women was the lack of appropriate financial support. Participants identified their mental and physical health conditions as significant barriers to their full or part-time access to income-generating activities. As examples, some respondents' job applications were rejected and several could not access career development programs tailored to their special needs.

Participants disclosed complex histories of violence, abuse and control. The majority of the women had been victims of multiple forms of abuse, in addition to having multiple abusers. Most commented on the stigma and discrimination related to both disabilities and abuse. Therefore, a more holistic approach to the issues of abuse and special needs must be developed and instituted by professional agencies.

Finally, the women disclosed great isolation in their personal and professional lives. They identified few informal supports or professionals who could assist them in the long term. The women revealed that loneliness and a lack of communication generated additional mental health problems, and worsened their health. In conjunction with the input from the Calgary service providers, the important voices of these women were used to construct recommendations to improve services and better address their needs. The report is available from [tutty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tutty@ucalgary.ca).



### Other RESOLVE Alberta News

**Bianca Giurgiu**, who has been a valued research assistant with RESOLVE Alberta since 2008, successfully defended her MSW thesis, *Violence Against Women in Eastern European Immigrant Populations*. She and her husband recently relocated to Portland, Oregon. Her contributions to a number of projects and her dedication to the issue of the abuse of women are greatly appreciated. ❀

## *Saskatchewan's Housing Crisis* cont'd from Page 1

neighbourhood. Some women reported living in fear of gangs, and described how neighbourhood violence affected their children.

Many women from smaller communities spoke of a sense of connectedness, so leaving their community was often not something they would consider. Although staying in their communities posed risks to their safety, they were willing to take the risk.

Some participants expressed a deep sense of despair in their circumstances, some to the point of contemplation of suicide. In contrast, other women expressed optimism and hope for the future. Most had plans to return to school. All mentioned the desire to be in the workforce, although they placed priority on jobs that would accommodate their parenting responsibilities. One woman expressed her optimism by saying:

*"I came here [to a second stage shelter] with nothing. Look what I have [now]. I have beautiful, beautiful stuff which I never had over there. The furniture...people are very generous and I have a beautiful place now. This is a new, fresh, good start, a new beginning, a new life, a good life; the best that I can do."*

Conditions described by our interviewees illustrate that Saskatchewan is clearly in a housing crisis. These conditions and circumstances were consistently reported by women throughout the province - urban, rural, on reserve, off reserve. The following recommendations are compiled from their narratives. We need:

- A system of rent controls that work for both the landlord and the tenant;
- Laws that do not allow for the conversion of existing apartment buildings into condominiums, unless the conversion is a tenant initiative;
- Enforced rules, perhaps through a rental

property registry, for the upkeep of rental accommodation, in order to ensure that no resident of Saskatchewan has to live in unacceptable conditions;

- Housing policies at all levels of government that include a financial commitment to affordable housing;

- Comprehensive and innovative approaches to extending and strengthening income security, such as an adequate guaranteed income;

- Supports built into housing programmes for women who have experienced violence;

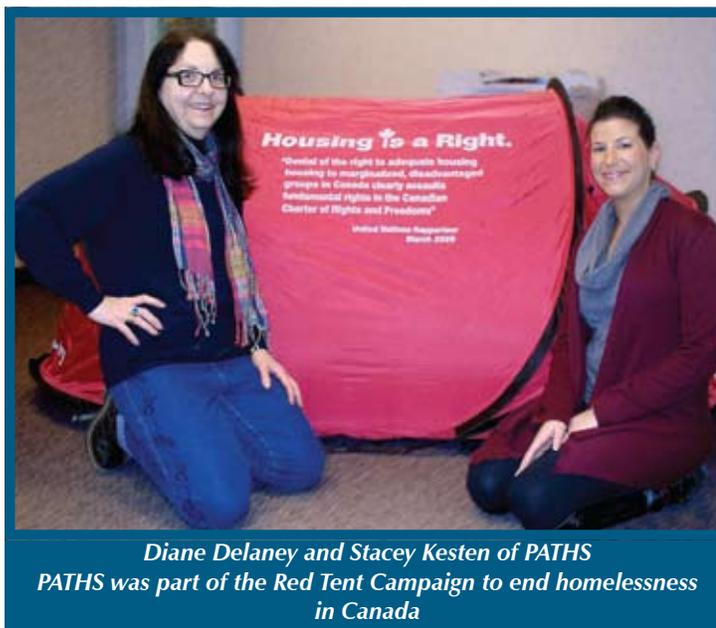
- Advocates to help women find accommodation, along with other supports;

- Welcoming and safe neighbourhoods that can be established through funding community associations, church programmes, and community policing initiatives;

- Increased awareness by government and the general public of the housing challenges women face when they attempt to exit an abusive relationship; and

- Education of tenants as to their rights and responsibilities.

The stories of the women interviewed evoke an empathic response and appeal to our values of fairness and generosity. By acting upon these values we can enable the change in laws, policies, and professional relationships that affect the circumstances of these women. Changing the status quo in terms of housing policy is the ethical choice and will help to ensure that women and children who leave violent situations can have the best chance at freedom from violence. ☘



*Diane Delaney and Stacey Kesten of PATHS  
PATHS was part of the Red Tent Campaign to end homelessness  
in Canada*

## WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



**February 14, 2011 - *Understanding Violence in Relationships (Domestic Violence Core Module)***, hosted by The Support Network. The event will be held at The Support Network, 400, 10025 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. For more information refer to [www.eventbrite.com/event/1210804549](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1210804549) or call **780-482-0198**.

**February 24, 2011 - *Dying to Get Out: The Link Between Suicide and Family Violence (Domestic Violence Module 2)***, hosted by The Support Network. The event will be held at The Support Network, 400, 10025 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. For more information refer to [www.eventbrite.com/event/1210828621](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1210828621) or call **780-482-0198**.

**March 1 - 2, 2011 - *Family Violence and Addictions***, presented by the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba. This course will provide an overview of addiction problems and family violence, their coexistence and the implications for identification and referral. For more information refer to [www.afm.mb.ca/Education/index.php#4](http://www.afm.mb.ca/Education/index.php#4).

**March 6 - 8, 2011 - *A Dialogue on Family Violence in Culturally Diverse Communities: Practical Approaches to Prevention and Response***, hosted by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The event will be held at the Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre in Toronto, Ontario. This conference will address new and emerging manifestations of family violence across the lifespan in culturally diverse communities, including immigrants, refugees and other established ethno-racial populations as well as First Nations and Inuit peoples. For more information contact **Sandra Wright**, *Manager, Coalition on Community Safety, Health and Well-being* at **613-526-3679** or by e-mail at [swright7@sympatico.ca](mailto:swright7@sympatico.ca).

**March 22 - 25, 2011 - *Canadian Domestic Violence Conference 2: The Next Wave of Conversations from Today's Top Innovators***, co-sponsored by Bridges: A Domestic Violence Counseling, Research and Training Centre, and the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre: Gail Appel Institute. The event will be held at the Delta Chelsea Hotel in Toronto, Ontario. The focus of the Canadian Domestic Violence Conference 2 is on helpful conversations with those who perpetrate abuse, those who are abused, or those who have both abused and are abused in the same relationship. Early registration prices are in effect until February 24, 2011. For more information, refer to [www.canadiandomesticviolenceconference.ca](http://www.canadiandomesticviolenceconference.ca), or contact **Shannon Holcomb** at **416-972-1935 extension 3340**, or by e-mail at [sholcomb@hincksdellcrest.org](mailto:sholcomb@hincksdellcrest.org).

**May 29 to June 1, 2011 - *Second International Conference on Violence Against Women: Complex Realities and New Issues in a Changing World***, hosted by The Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Family Violence and Violence against Women (CRI-VIFF). The event will be held in Montreal at the Delta Centre-Ville Hotel. For a discounted rate, register before April 16, 2011. For more information, refer to [www.conferenceviolence.com/english/home/introduction-word/](http://www.conferenceviolence.com/english/home/introduction-word/) or e-mail [conferenceviolence@esersoc.umontreal.ca](mailto:conferenceviolence@esersoc.umontreal.ca).



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CENTENARY 1911 - 2011

*Celebrate 100 years of International Women's Day  
on March 8, 2011*

Check local listings for events

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Ceplis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



*We're finding solutions to protect women and children from violence and abuse!*

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E-mail: [info@prairieactionfoundation.ca](mailto:info@prairieactionfoundation.ca)

Web site: [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca)

## 2011 CARE Grants



Prairieaction Foundation brings academics together with such front-line agencies as women's shelters and child abuse services, to create research projects that produce results in our communities.

The **Community Action, Research and Education (CARE) Grant program** furthers Prairieaction's goals by supporting community-based research, whose goal is to protect women and children from violence and abuse.

The research that we fund constantly tries to answer the question "How do we know if we are doing the right thing if we don't know what works?"

The essence of the CARE Grant program is to fund human services agencies and other registered charities for research that will:

- Identify effective strategies, models and methods to prevent and alleviate violence and abuse; and/or
- Demonstrate the impact of a specific program or approach in providing solutions to violence and/or abuse

The research project must be solution-oriented and answer a question that will allow community-based organizations to break the cycle of violence and abuse. Our aim in creating more understanding with our stakeholders is to be able to provide our donors with a stronger case for investing in research.

Further details are available at [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca). ☞

### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

~ Dr. Joan Durrant ~  
Acting Director (Academic)

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*“Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society.”  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *Moving Trauma-Informed Care Forward*



*by Tim Wall, Klinik Community Health Centre, Winnipeg, MB*



**T**rauma is an overwhelming experience that is not merely stressful, but “shocking, terrifying and devastating to the victim, resulting in profoundly upsetting feelings of terror, shame, helplessness, and powerlessness” (Courtois, 1999). As many as 1 in 4 people may have been affected by trauma and 1 in 10 Canadians may suffer from post-traumatic stress.

### ***The Challenge of Trauma for Human Services***

According to Dr. Judith Herman, “the knowledge of horrible events periodically intrudes into public awareness but is rarely retained for long. Denial, repression, and dissociation operate on a social as well as an individual level.” This denial and dissociation has permeated our health and human service systems, for although trauma has long been identified as an important issue, it has at the same time been largely ignored. Individuals with a history of trauma are estimated to make up more than 50% of those who enter the mental health or addictions systems. Surprisingly, despite that fact that trauma may be central to many people’s difficulties, and awareness of it pivotal to their recovery, it is seldom identified or addressed in mental health, social service or addiction settings. Without their core trauma issues recognized and addressed, many people are likely to continue to

struggle.

People who live with post-traumatic stress experience its effects in their day-to-day activities and in most of their interpersonal relationships, throughout all stages of their post-trauma lives. Their perceptions of themselves, of others, and of the world are shaped by horrific events they have experienced and, in turn, guide the development of their coping strategies. Responses to trauma include suicidal, addictive and other self-harming behaviours; dissociative episodes; severe difficulties with trust and intimacy; emotional disturbances that include depression, anxiety and rage; and ongoing feelings of intense shame and poor self-worth.

These responses to trauma are often not recognized by either survivors or clinicians. As a result, people affected by trauma are at risk of being re-traumatized in social service and health care settings due to a lack of professional knowledge of and sensitivity to the needs of this population. Trauma-affected people frequently experience social services as mirrors of the power and control experienced in the abusive relationships that caused the original trauma.

***Moving... cont’d on page 6***

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## Dr. Leslie Tutty: With Appreciation



by Kendra Nixon

*After 12 years of service, Dr. Leslie Tutty will step down as Academic Coordinator of RESOLVE Alberta at the end of June 2011. In this article, Kendra Nixon reflects on the impact of Leslie's work and the magnitude of her contribution to RESOLVE. On behalf of everyone in the RESOLVE network, we express deep appreciation to Leslie for her passion, dedication, vision and accomplishment. We wish you all the best as you take up your next challenge, Leslie.*

I first met Leslie when she hired me as the Community Research Development Coordinator for RESOLVE Alberta in August 1999. This was an exciting time for me because the office had only been open a short while and I would be part of a team that would influence the development of a research agenda for violence against women and family violence in the Province. I, and the RESOLVE network, could not have asked for a better person than Dr. Leslie Tutty to lead us in this task. The work that RESOLVE Alberta has accomplished over the last twelve years is a testament to Leslie's knowledge, expertise, and passion to end the violence that plagues so many women.

During her role as the Academic Research Coordinator for RESOLVE Alberta, Leslie mentored countless research assistants, equipping us with the skills necessary to become successful researchers. Not only did she train us to carry out sound research, Leslie gave us the support and encouragement to present our research at agency meetings, community forums, and academic conferences. Indeed, working at RESOLVE Alberta with Leslie gave me the opportunity to publish several articles and book chapters, enabling me to build a successful research career. In fact, I credit my work with Leslie as a major reason for being in academia today. And, I am not alone. Many of us fortunate enough to be part of the RESOLVE team have gone on to successful research and academic careers, in large part because of the support and guidance we received from Leslie.

The work that RESOLVE Alberta has accomplished since Leslie's involvement with the organization is nothing short of remarkable. Not only are the research projects numerous but they span a wide area of violence, including abuse against female intimate partners; sexual assault; abuse against older adults; same-sex relationship violence; children's exposure to violence; sexual exploitation; and youth violence and bullying. As the Academic Research Coordinator, Leslie has

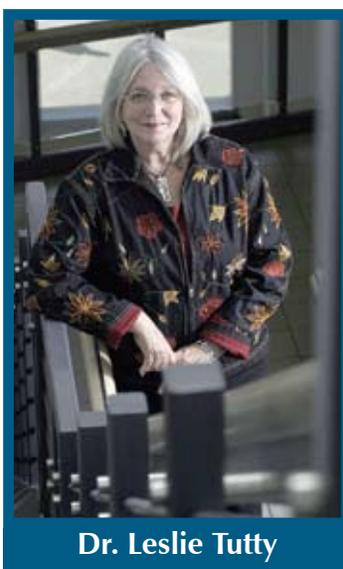
collaborated with a number of leading researchers in family violence across the country, resulting in large-scale research projects, including the Community–University Research Alliance (CURA) project entitled *Evaluating the Justice and Community Response to Family Violence in the Canadian Prairie Provinces*. This was an extensive

study that examined the criminal and civil justices systems in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and led to numerous papers and conference presentations. While at RESOLVE, Leslie co-edited two books, the first being *Reclaiming Self: Issues and Resources for Abused Women* edited with Carolyn Goard; and the second, *What's law got to do with it? The law, specialized courts and domestic violence in Canada*, which Leslie co-edited with Jane Ursel and Janice LeMaistre.

Leslie has been instrumental in the development of the domestic violence community in Alberta. She has assisted many local community organizations to develop research projects and evaluations.

In 2010, the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter named Leslie as one of the recipients of the *Turning Point Award*, in recognition of her impressive contributions to the issue of violence against women and children. In 2008, Leslie was appointed as the first **Brenda Strafford Chair** in the Prevention of Domestic Violence (Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary), one of only two Chairs on domestic violence in the country, and the only one in Western Canada. Leslie served as Chair for two years.

RESOLVE has been most fortunate to have Leslie lead the Alberta office for the past twelve years. Leslie's work and dedication have helped to make RESOLVE into one of Canada's leading research institutes on violence against women and family violence. From everyone at RESOLVE, we thank you Leslie for your tireless work and your passionate effort to end violence in the lives of so many women. ❀



Dr. Leslie Tutty

## Manitoba Update: Recovering from Violence—Voices of the Women of WISH



by Lori Rudniski, WISH Clinic, and Jocelyn Proulx, RESOLVE Manitoba

***“When I came to the program, I felt very broken and had no confidence. Now I feel very confident and excited about my life”***

***-WISH Client***

**W**innipeg Interprofessional Student-Run Health (WISH) Clinic is located in Winnipeg’s Point Douglas community, a neighbourhood identified with the poorest overall health and highest level of poverty, and strives to provide programs that best fit the needs of our clients. Our year-long program provides women and their children, affected by domestic violence, with individual and group counselling, support programs, and connection to community resources as they reside in secured on-site housing. Through a recently completed research project funded by the **CARE Grant Program** of the **Prairieaction Foundation**, WISH gained a clear sense of program impact. Results were obtained from analysis of existing client feedback at the six-, twelve- and eighteen-month mark of their program. Data from face-to-face interviews was also included.

The findings indicated that overall satisfaction with the WISH program was high. As one participant stated,

***“I feel free from the violence and I feel that WISH helped me to learn how to make the choices to remain that way.”***

Most reported an increase in self-esteem, strength and confidence. Many reported improvements in their physical and mental health, as well as their sleep, and reductions in anxiety and depression. Some noted changes in their child. For example, one woman commented that *“they feel much better than a year ago, but two of the children still have issues to work on, and we are working on them.”* Most of the women left WISH because their program ended, but they left feeling that they had received the support they needed to live independent lives.

Participants also identified changes that are needed to better facilitate their recovery from violence. In particular, they noted that changes are needed to the physical environment. WISH operates on the third floor of a Manitoba Housing apartment complex. Maintenance and tenants on the first two floors of the building are outside of WISH’s governance, although they form part of the clients’ environments. One woman stated, *“I was very disappointed in the living conditions in the building...*

*I found it hard to recover in this environment.”* Whitley et al. (2005) have identified the importance of the “residential bubble”: the space surrounding a dwelling, the neighbours, and the degree of control people have in their environments. Those that offer personal space, boundaries, and community meeting areas enhance people’s feelings of comfort and help them cope with negative events (Evans & McCoy, 1998). Settings that provide exposure to nature have been associated with better mental health and faster recovery from stress.

This research project has demonstrated to us the importance of program evaluation. We have strengthened our commitment to creating a more positive physical environment to complement our successful programs. Therefore, the feedback we received from our participants has given us a clear direction for enhancing our services to women recovering from violence, and their children.



Evans, G.W., & McCoy, J.M. (1998). *When buildings don’t work: The role of architecture in human health.* *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 18, 85-94.

Whitley, R., Prince, M., & Cargo, M. (2005). *Thinking inside the bubble: evidence for a new contextual unit in urban mental health.* *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 59, 893-897.



## Saskatchewan Update



by Kimberley Zorn and Holly McKenzie

**2011** has been a very exciting time at the RESOLVE Saskatchewan office. Two of our outstanding graduate students, **Holly McKenzie** and **Meghan Woods** collaborated with RESOLVE team members to submit several conference presentations for the **Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre Indigenous Health Research Conference** in March. **Bourassa, Hampton, Juschka, McKenzie, and Wood** presented *Who is health care serving? Comparing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal survivors of IPV use of health care services in Saskatchewan*. This paper focused on barriers Aboriginal women survivors face when accessing health care services, which was addressed through data from the **Healing Journey Project**. McKenzie, Bourassa, **Kubik, Strathy** and **McKenna** then presented *Aboriginal Grandmothers caring for grandchildren: Located in a policy gap*; a paper based on a **Participatory Action Research** project with members of **Aboriginal Grandmothers Caring for Grandchildren** support network. In particular, it looked at how current child welfare policies impact the health of grandmothers and the grandchildren they care for. Lastly, Woods, **Zorn, Taylor, Wood, Bourassa** and Hampton presented *Sleep, childhood abuse, and intimate partner violence in Saskatchewan Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women*. This presentation focused on the relationship between colonization, violence, and health for Aboriginal women, using data from the Healing Journey Project. All presentations were well-received by participants at the conference and many interesting comments were made.

Meghan Woods was happy to hear that she was successful with her first grant application! **MITACS** (Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems) Inc., University of British Columbia, awarded her \$3,000 to hold a two-day workshop on **Understanding the Healing Journeys: Building a Longitudinal Analysis Team**. This workshop will be held in Regina on June 2 and 3, 2011, and will bring together all the Healing Journey stakeholders, including research faculty, graduate students, and community

partners. The group will create a new longitudinal data analysis team under the umbrella of RESOLVE Saskatchewan.

Funded by the YWCA, **Eric Oleson** and Kim Zorn have worked with RESOLVE for four months on various projects, where they assisted with **End of Life** and Healing Journey work, among other RESOLVE Saskatchewan projects. Eric and Holly McKenzie were hired for the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** project, which wound down March 2011. RESOLVE Saskatchewan has decided not to seek a contract for the Phase II portion of the project.

Mary Hampton's students continue to enjoy academic success. Kim Zorn and Whitney Taylor have been accepted into the Clinical Psychology masters program at the University of Regina; **Danaka Safinuk**, RESOLVE Saskatchewan's Research Coordinator, has been awarded a CIHR graduate award; and Meghan Woods has been awarded a prestigious pre-doctoral internship in clinical psychology at the University of Manitoba.

RESOLVE Saskatchewan would like to thank **Rebecca Kotz**, team leader of the **National Missing Persons Coordination Centre**, for her insightful presentation on March 1, 2011. The lecture addressed the missing persons issue in Australia, and focused on supports for families. RESOLVE felt it was important to use this public lecture as a forum to bring awareness and understanding to the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women within Canada, as well as the lack of services for affected family members. Rebecca also presented at a meeting in Regina, organized by Saskatchewan's **Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons**. The meeting was attended by government representatives and service providers from the Western provinces and territories, and participants discussed issues

related to support for families of missing persons. A transcript of her talk can be found on the RESOLVE Saskatchewan website at [www.uregina.ca/resolve/RESOLVE/research.htm](http://www.uregina.ca/resolve/RESOLVE/research.htm). ☘



From left: Eric Oleson, Kim Zorn, and Holly McKenzie

## Alberta Update



by Leslie M. Tutty

**T**his is my last submission to the RESOLVE Newsletter, as I step down from my position as Academic Research Co-ordinator of RESOLVE Alberta at the end of June. I do so with many fond memories and a deep respect for the opportunities offered by being associated with the RESOLVE network. My involvement has been lengthy. I was at the conference in Calgary in 1996 when, with the assistance of Senator **Sharon Carstairs**, **Margaret Newall**, and many others, the idea of creating a tri-provincial research network on violence and abuse was born. When the RESOLVE Alberta office opened at the University of Calgary in 1997, I assisted **Lisa Lorenzetti**, our first Community Research Coordinator, in organizing and networking. By the time that **Kendra Nixon** assumed that position in 1999, I had taken the offer to be the Academic Research Coordinator. Twelve years later, much has been accomplished.

I am proud of the many research projects conducted under the auspices of RESOLVE Alberta but what I will remember more are the many individuals who collaborated to support the research, academics and community members, and Regional Council, Partnership Board and Steering Committee members. I could not envision having met and worked with such accomplished people without the network developed by RESOLVE. As the director of RESOLVE, **Jane Ursel's** leadership in this must be acknowledged and is surely appreciated.

In addition to research in the Prairie Provinces, the RESOLVE network has also facilitated a number of national studies and networks, such as the **Canadian Observatory on the Justice Response to Domestic Violence**, and the national projects that examined abused women and homelessness, among others. Although I am leaving the RESOLVE Alberta office, I remain involved in a number of RESOLVE projects, in addition to some of my new research looking at ways to

prevent homelessness. So I'm not leaving; just stepping away a little.

**Carole Cillis**, long-term office manager of RESOLVE Alberta, is also retiring to spend more of her time with her family and her art. Carole began working with RESOLVE Alberta only a couple of weeks before our 2004 two-day RESOLVE conference on the justice response to domestic violence. Luckily for us, she stayed afterward, quietly but diligently working behind the scenes to keep the office running. Not only does Carole keep all of us on track, managing the financials and payroll, but she has had to navigate the seemingly ever-changing accounting and human resources systems at the University of Calgary. She has done so with perseverance and dignity.



Dr. Leslie Tutty (left) and Carole Cillis

Carole worked part-time with RESOLVE Alberta so that she could keep painting. Having seen her paintings and portraits, several of which have won awards, I can attest that Carole's decision to leave RESOLVE Alberta to devote more time

to her art makes considerable sense. I'm sure that her partner, Danny, and her children and grandchildren will appreciate Carole having a more flexible schedule. We will miss seeing her in Calgary as she moves her base of operations back home to the western foothills near Sundre but hope we can count on visits.



### Other RESOLVE Alberta News

*The Evaluation of the Calgary Specialized Domestic Violence Trial Court & Monitoring the First Appearance Court: Final Report*, authored by Leslie Tutty, Jennifer Koshan, Deborah Jesso, Cindy Ogden, and Jacqueline Warrell is now available from [tutty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tutty@ucalgary.ca). In all, the report analyzes justice data from ten years with over 6000 accused, and qualitative interviews with key justice and community stakeholders, and 30 men mandated to treatment by the courts. ☘

*Moving...cont'd from Page 1*

### ***Moving toward Trauma-Informed Services***

In contrast to current service approaches, trauma-informed services are based on knowledge of trauma's impacts. A trauma-informed system is one in which all components of a given service system possess a basic understanding of the role that violence and abuse play in the lives of people who seek health, mental health, family violence, addiction and spiritual care services. A trauma-informed system uses this information to design and deliver services that accommodate the vulnerabilities of trauma survivors and promote healing, recovery and well-being. A trauma-informed approach could transform our systems of care.

### ***The Manitoba Trauma Partnership***

In 2007, a provincial forum was held in Winnipeg to begin this transformation. The forum promoted and facilitated systemic change that would 1) increase the capacity of organizations and systems to better respond to the needs of people affected by trauma; and 2) increase the capacity of individuals, families and communities to heal and recover from trauma and better respond to future crises, trauma and emergencies. Under the leadership of **Dr. Jocelyn Proulx**, RESOLVE Manitoba produced a comprehensive report on the forum that outlined 11 recommendations. Following its release, the **Provincial Trauma Planning Leadership Committee (PTPLC)** was established to develop a framework for trauma-informed systems of care.

In 2009, the PTPLC met to develop a plan for a comprehensive trauma recovery system and resource centre in Manitoba, with RESOLVE Manitoba and Dr. Proulx in a lead role. Following this meeting, the PTPLC became the **Manitoba Trauma Partnership (MTP)**. Today, a growing number of groups representing a variety of sectors are partnering with the founding organizations to facilitate closer collaborations and to link with similar groups across the world to promote trauma-informed care.

The mission of the MTP is to build a dynamic, coordinated, and comprehensive trauma-informed system of care, and to transform the way health and human services are delivered through promotion of trauma-informed practices.

### ***Trauma-Informed Resources for the Community***

Some important goals of the MTP have already been

realized. For example, in collaboration with an interagency advisory committee, **Klinic Community Health Centre** took the lead in development of a **Trauma Toolkit**—a resource to help service organizations and providers deliver trauma-informed services. A second edition will be published this year.

With funding from the **Government of Manitoba**, Klinic produced and delivered a two-day training on trauma-informed counselling and a half-day workshop on trauma-informed care. Service providers consistently report that among the most useful components of this training are information on the neurobiology of trauma and recovery, self-soothing, and grounding approaches based on mindfulness. This training is now in its third year.

Currently, the MTP is developing a workshop on trauma-informed care for government policy makers and senior managers of health care and social service organizations. Policy- and decision-makers need to understand the importance of providing trauma-informed care in departments that address health, addiction services, spiritual care, corrections, and education. Those in leadership positions must also understand how trauma-informed care can be translated into and inform policy, procedures and every aspect of service delivery.

Another goal is the creation of a **Virtual Trauma Resource Centre**. The website [www.trauma-informed.ca](http://www.trauma-informed.ca) provides information about the Trauma Toolkit and available workshops. By Winter 2011, the site will serve as the foundation for a comprehensive virtual resource centre, with on-line supports and resources for people affected by trauma.

Critical to this work is research that provides evidence of effective practices that broaden and deepens our understanding of trauma and recovery. Our vision of a comprehensive trauma recovery system includes a trauma research centre located in Manitoba. Our vision is that not only that Manitoba become the first trauma-informed province, but that we continue to develop our capacity to promote knowledge exchange, transfer and translation to the benefit of all Canadians. ☘

## CONFERENCES



**May 26 - 27, 2011 - Domestic Violence and the Law Conference**, hosted by The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (CLEBC). The event will be held at the Pan Pacific Hotel, in Vancouver, BC. At this conference you will learn how to spot the signs of domestic violence, how to understand the risks, and the best way to assist clients and others in creating safety. For more information refer to [www.cle.bc.ca/onlinestore/productdetails.aspx?cid=528](http://www.cle.bc.ca/onlinestore/productdetails.aspx?cid=528).

**May 29 to June 1, 2011 - Second International Conference on Violence Against Women: Complex Realities and New Issues in a Changing World**, hosted by The Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Family Violence and Violence against Women (CRI-VIFF). The event will be held in Montreal at the Delta Centre-Ville Hotel. For a discounted rate, register before April 16, 2011. For more information, refer to [www.confERENCEVIOLENCE.COM/english/home/introduction-word/](http://www.confERENCEVIOLENCE.COM/english/home/introduction-word/) or e-mail [conferenceviolence@esersoc.umontreal.ca](mailto:conferenceviolence@esersoc.umontreal.ca).

**June 2 - 4, 2011 - Global Summit on Ending Corporal Punishment and Promoting Positive Discipline**, presented by Southern Methodist University. The purpose of this conference is to unite interested individuals who concur that corporal punishment of children is an unsuitable and potentially damaging way to discipline and teach children. For more information refer to [smu.edu/psychology/html/globalSummit.html](http://smu.edu/psychology/html/globalSummit.html) or contact Dr. George Holden by e-mail at [cpsummit@smu.edu](mailto:cpsummit@smu.edu) or by telephone at 214-768-4696.

### *RELATIONSHIP FACTORS IN DEPLOYMENT AS RISK FACTORS FOR MARITAL CONFLICT IN THE REINTEGRATION PERIOD*



*by Alysha Jones*

*Alysha Jones is a Research Assistant on the Healing Journey Project for RESOLVE, and a Master's student in Family Social Sciences at the University of Manitoba. She was recently awarded the Best Research Poster prize at the Child and Family Research Symposium. In this article she presents the content of her winning poster.*

In the past decade military families have had to face deployments, some many times over. When facing deployment, many challenges and concerns arise, such as isolation, fear, anxiety, role confusion, stress, anger, and ambiguity—all of which increase the risk of marital conflict.

I was interested in understanding whether the risk for marital conflict is a consequence of the deployment or is a pre-existing vulnerability of the marital dyad. Six risk factors that address this question were examined: sociodemographics of the couple; emotional stability of the spouse left at home; possibilities for relationship maintenance; physical separation of the couple; communication skills of the couple; and concerns about infidelity.

Literature suggests that these factors interact to influence post-deployment conflict. In particular, after the first month of deployment these risk factors play a crucial role in determining how the couple's relationship will maintain itself during the separation. Also, the degree to which these factors interact with one another influences the likelihood of conflict within the dyad and of marital dissolution during the reintegration period.

The only preventive approach identified in literature as a potential mediator of risk factors was support groups designed to help the spouses feel comfortable with showing emotion and asking for help, which reduces their social isolation. In these groups, couples can meet one another and build support systems, share experiences, and learn how to deal with stressors from other individuals in the same situation. Effective groups are facilitated by other military spouses who have experienced deployment themselves. However, there is also a risk in having individuals without professional training lead the groups, as serious issues can arise and group participants may have mental or physical health issues.

Future research in this area must explore whether specific factors present during deployment increase risk for marital conflict during reintegration. Findings of such research will have important implications for military administration, deployment policies and protocols, and clinical intervention. Additionally, there is a need for prevention research that addresses not only stress reduction but also the behavioural and psychological impact of the separation on the spouses.



RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



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## *Dr. Joan Durrant: Humanitarian of the Year*



**Dr. Joan Durrant**, Acting Director of **RESOLVE Manitoba**, is the recipient of this year's **Humanitarian of the Year** award by the Manitoba Chapter of the **Canadian Red Cross**. The Humanitarian award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated the spirit of humanity through volunteer work, advocacy, leadership and philanthropy, in their community and around the world. As such, Durrant's research has centered around the welfare of children, focused on the psychological and cultural factors that contribute to parents' use of corporal punishment.

A child-clinical psychologist and professor in the Department of Family Social Sciences in the Faculty of Human Ecology, Durrant is also the acting director of prairie based research network RESOLVE, and has spent considerable time living in Sweden to study the context, history and implementation of the world's first corporal punishment ban.

Her work includes the groundbreaking book ***Positive Discipline***, published by the international child rights NGO **Save the Children**, and has been translated into 17 languages. She was also the principal researcher and co-author of the ***Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth***. The document has since been endorsed by more than 400 professional organizations across Canada.

She continues to work tirelessly and is currently working with the Save the Children in Indonesia, where hundreds of thousands of children live in institutions. The Indonesian government is undertaking a de-institutionalization process to return many of these children to their homes and communities, and Durrant has been teaching Social Work students how to support the families affected by this process. ☘

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *Responding to Abused Men: Opening Shelter, Opening Discussion*



*by Suhad Bisharat, Executive Director, The Laurel Centre, Inc.*

### The Men's Resource Centre Program of



**V**iolence and abuse against men form one of the most hidden realities in family violence. This article seeks to honour the history of domestic violence work while emphasizing the need to address the impact of family violence on men. We began with discussions of how to best respond to the gap in service to abused men. At the heart of the matter is the goal to awaken from the silence about abuse toward men, and to recognize that this issue is no laughing matter.

For many good reasons, domestic violence work has been divided by gender since the early 1970's. Historically, it has been women who have suffered the most extreme amounts of violence. Furthermore, domestic violence has occurred in a broader context of women's oppression, and our theories of abuse have been closely aligned with women's efforts to address that oppression. Women are the ones who have volunteered and pooled personal resources to establish the first safe homes. The public's response, along with men who use violence, has often been denial, minimization, and blame of women for the violence toward them. For instance, early 1980's television programs commonly depicted a man striking a woman to "calm her down" or "teach her a lesson". The prevalence of acceptance of violence toward women required that women speak a clear,

direct, and vigorous message – Men's Violence Toward Women Must Be Recognized and Stopped.

Gradually, women have used the clear message to bring about important advancements to address domestic violence. Today it has become the primary standard for most domestic violence theory, research, policy and service. However, our reliance on one clear message has made it difficult to openly consider some of the complexities of domestic violence, and has made our efforts to promote safety incomplete.

We have been particularly slow to recognize the complexities of violence in First Nations communities, between people in same sex relationships, and in heterosexual relationships that do not reflect the gender oppression we are most familiar with. Many feminist-oriented thinkers and service providers have bravely sought to expand beyond one clear message. Unfortunately, our community has sometimes responded to men with the same denial, minimization, and victim blaming faced by abused women. For instance, today's popular media commonly portray women's violence toward men as "harmless" or "deserved".

*Responding to Abused Men...cont'd on page 6*

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## Manitoba Initiatives in Trauma Informed Care



by Jocelyn Proulx and Tim Wall

With increased knowledge about trauma and the interconnectedness of issues among clients affected by trauma, the service system has begun to voice and act upon the need for collaboration and trauma-informed services. Promotion of these approaches began with the 2007 **Manitoba Forum on Trauma Recovery** and was maintained through the **Manitoba Trauma Partnership (MTP)**, a collection of individuals from different sectors interested in working toward trauma-informed care. The goal of the MTP is building a comprehensive trauma system, including a Trauma Resource Centre, for which funding from the Manitoba Department of Health was announced this past summer.

### Trauma Informed Services

Being trauma informed involves an understanding of the wide-ranging effects of traumatic experiences. This perspective leads to a multidimensional, rather than a fragmented, view of individuals. Thus, the person is seen as more than just a particular type of problem or category, such as “addict” or “victim”. Humanizing individuals in this way promotes compassionate care and facilitates a cooperative partnership, rather than a hierarchical approach to intervention.

Further, the trauma-informed approach can change clients’ perspectives. Traumatic experiences affect an individual’s beliefs about self, others, and the world, which then affects their life decisions and circumstances. Understanding the developmental continuum of their lives helps clients to see the links between past, present and future, thereby increasing self awareness, self compassion, and confidence in the possibility of change. Being an active partner in decisions about intervention can increase their sense of control and empowerment, elements often destroyed by trauma.

Being trauma informed offers service providers greater insight into the elements of recovery and healing, something increasingly evident in Winnipeg services. For example, an evaluation of WISH Inc., as described in the RESOLVE September 2011 Manitoba Update, *Recovering from Violence: Voices of the Women of*

*WISH Inc.*, indicated the importance of the living and physical environment to recovery from stress and victimization. Services such as **The Laurel Centre** realize the importance of addressing such compulsive coping behaviours as addictions in the treatment of childhood sexual victimization. Service providers have stated their interest in knowing more about the neurological effects of trauma in order to apply more effective methods in their



programs. The publication of *Calm in the Storm: Coping With the Stresses of Life* is based on what was learned about these neurological effects. A *Trauma Informed Tool Kit* was developed by **Klinik Community Health Centre (Klinik)** in consultation with an interagency advisory committee. With funding from the Manitoba Government, Klinik offers workshops that help service providers be trauma informed. Recently, researchers and community agencies such as Klinik have received Canadian Institutes of Health Research funding to improve health providers knowledge of interpersonal trauma.

### Service Collaboration and Integration

Trauma informed care also involves collaboration and integration of services. Fragmented services are detrimental to service seekers who are often sent from service to service, each time having to retell the same information. This can be both frustrating and re-traumatizing. Because services cannot address all areas affected by trauma, working collaboratively would allow a multidimensional approach to be taken, and lessen the burden on the traumatized individual to negotiate order, timing and information sharing among different services. Co-occurring issues could be addressed more effectively and community cooperation would take precedence over competition. Although there are obstacles to forming this collaborative system, the advantages in terms of more effective care and facilitating service provision make tackling these obstacles worthwhile. Because of the interest and effort of individuals from the community and academia, and the government’s support for many of the initiatives and activities of the MTP, Manitoba has become a leader in the issue of trauma-informed services in Canada. ☘

## Manitoba Update: Research Day 2011



by Cheryl Fraehlich



**T**he Resolve Research Day 2011 conference was held October 17, at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. In addition to providing an opportunity to showcase the research RESOLVE has conducted with our community partners and innovative research that focuses on violence and abuse conducted by researchers from a variety of disciplines, our annual research day is an opportunity for community partners to share information about new programs and initiatives. Eight sessions were held throughout the day, with a total of twenty presentations from academics and community representatives from across Canada.

The morning began with welcoming remarks from **Dr. David Barnard**, President of the University of Manitoba, and **John Duhault**, President of Prairieaction Foundation. This was followed with a keynote address by world renowned Canadian author, playwright and musician, **Tomson Highway**, who spoke about his attendance at residential school. Tomson presented a variety of stories that demonstrated human frailties and courage, and the capacity to triumph in the face of adversity. The morning concurrent sessions featured presentations on the trauma and experience of residential school survivors; abused women's encounters with the child welfare system; the impact of abuse on women's lives; and programs and research in vulnerable communities.

Keynote speaker in the afternoon was **Pauline Jackson**, Probation Officer with Manitoba Corrections, who inspired the audience through discussion of her work with the **Criminal Organization High Risk Offender Unit (COHROU)**, an innovative program of Manitoba Justice that manages the risk of the most lethal adults on probation in Winnipeg. Specific to domestic violence, COHROU targets offenders assessed at the highest risk

to reoffend in extreme violence, patterns of multiple victims, use of weapons and severe victim safety concerns. Pauline's address was followed by sessions on justice strategies for domestic violence, children and parenting in the context of abuse, results from the Healing Journey, and community initiatives for change.

In addition to presentations, community partners also participated in the RESOLVE Research Day through booths and tables that displayed information about the programs and services provided by their organizations.



Pauline Jackson

Approximately 350 registrants attended the full and enlightening day and, as usual, we were pleased to host a conference that brought together a wide range of individuals who work for solutions to violence and abuse—students, academics, service providers, consumers and policy makers. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our successful day. Special thanks to the **Prairieaction Foundation**, the **Province of Manitoba Family Violence Prevention Program**, and the **Department of Sociology** at the University of Manitoba for the support that made this event possible. ☘

### In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our dear colleague and friend, **Margaret Ogrodnick**, on October 26, 2011. Margaret was a RESOLVE Manitoba Steering Committee member for many years, and one who inspired us with her unique ideas and sense of humour. She will be greatly missed by all.

## Saskatchewan Update: Veiled Women Project

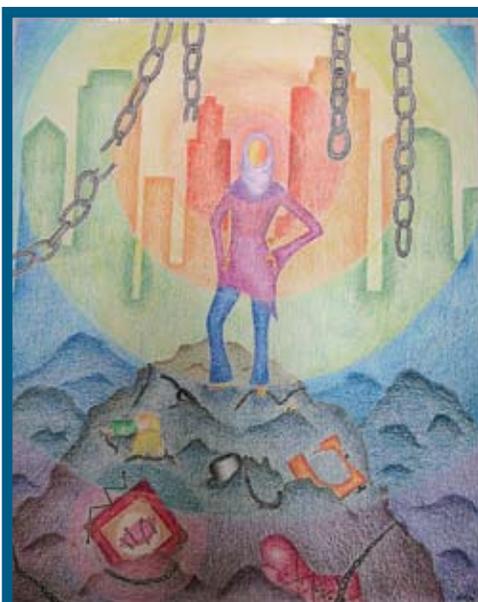


by Brenda Anderson

**R**ecent changes in immigration policies have created a demographic change in Regina from one largely demarcated as white settler, First Nations and Métis, to a greater representation of diverse customs, fashions and languages. Visually, the greatest change has been in the number of women who wear a variety of styles of headscarves and face veils. The mosque has witnessed a significant increase in its numbers of adherents whose countries of origin range from all over the Middle East, Southern Asia, and from across the African continent. In Fall 2011, a survey by the Montreal-based Association for Canadian Studies showed that only 43% of Canadians held “positive” or “somewhat positive” views about Muslims in Canada. Simultaneously, Canadian media is overly-liberal in its usage of pictures of women in niqab when reporting such issues as honour crimes, arrests of alleged terrorists, or false allegations of too-lenient airport security for niqabi or hijabi passengers. These reports suggest that Islam is more inherently violent and oppressive to women than other religions or cultures. The common pattern of misinformation or fear bred by ignorance, racism or sexism lies at the root of all discrimination and prejudice.

The lack of Muslim women’s opinions regarding the reasons for choosing to wear a head covering, placed alongside a national discourse about security and notions of a violent or barbaric religion, is concerning. Dr. Franz Volker Greifenhagen and I interviewed a number of Regina women with different customs of head coverings and asked them questions about motivations for dress codes; what obstacles are encountered as they negotiate being Muslim, Canadian and female in a post-9/11 world; and how security concerns expressed by media and government have impacted their lives on the prairies. Predictably, we found a range of reasons and thoughts on each of these issues. As each woman knowledgeably discussed the meaning of modesty for women and men in Islam, their own decision-making

processes as they considered wearing head covering, and their concern that Canadians need to invest time in learning about and understanding religious traditions, the need for more personal conversations and encounters became quite evident. Breaking down the notion of a white-centred Canada surrounded by ethnically different groups is needed, both to reflect the reality and to counter racial, religious and sexualized violence. Concerted efforts in public policy, media education and local community projects is required so that we allow Muslim women full Canadian rights and dignity.



“The Antidote” by Maysa Haqq

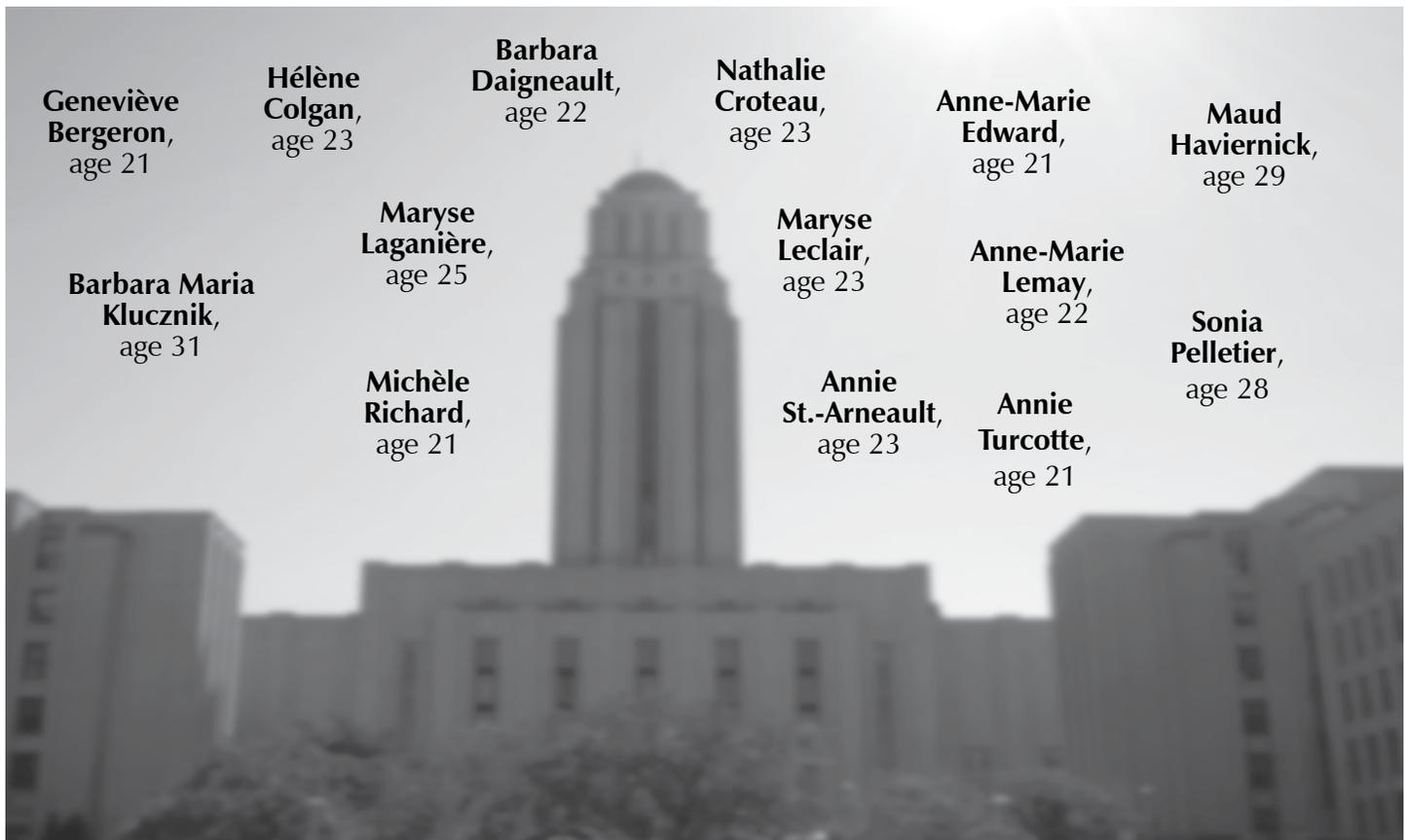
Grade XII student at Campbell Collegiate High School, 2011

Globe and Mail columnist **Sheema Khan** provides some helpful historical context. She writes, *Whether in the seventeenth century or the twenty-first century, by and large Canadians have always been unhappy with immigration...It’s always the sense that newcomers aren’t like us—they’re a problem, they’re going to be difficult...yet history also shows the extraordinary assimilative force of Canadian society.* (Khan 40). Citing the experiences of Ukrainians and Poles during the First World War, Germans, Italians and Japanese during the Second World War, and Jews during the first half of the twentieth century, not to mention the head tax on Chinese railroad workers and the ongoing treatment of First Nations peoples (31), the reality of being a minority in Canada

has meant that you have experienced discrimination as an “ethnic group.” She notes that today’s scapegoat is Muslims but that they, too, will successfully integrate into the Canadian fabric and be recognized as a vital and contributing part of Canada’s diverse, *not* homogenous, nation. Muslim women, veiled or unveiled, must receive the full benefits and care that are guaranteed by our Canadian Charter of Human Rights. ☘

### Works Cited

Khan, Sheema. *Of Hockey and Hijab: Reflections of a Canadian Muslim Woman*. Toronto: TSAR Publications, 2009. Print.

*December 6: 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary*

"For 45 minutes on Dec. 6, 1989 an enraged gunman roamed the corridors of Montreal's École Polytechnique and killed 14 women. Marc Lépine, 25, separated the men from the women and before opening fire on the classroom of female engineering students he screamed, "I hate feminists." Almost immediately, the Montreal Massacre became a galvanizing moment in which mourning turned into outrage about all violence against women."

Source: [archives.cbc.ca/society/crime\\_justice/topics/398/](http://archives.cbc.ca/society/crime_justice/topics/398/)

Since 1989, December 6 has been officially designated a national day of commemoration. Over the years, debate has raged (renewed for the tenth anniversary commemorations in 1999) as to whether the slaughter was an isolated act, or a symbol of male violence against women. It was certainly, as noted, an act of mass murder unprecedented in Canadian history. And the ritual, gendercidal separation of women from men -- as also noted -- usually leaves men dead and women still alive. Nonetheless, Lépine's rampage had strong echoes in the numerous acts of domestic murder and abuse committed by men fearful that "their" women will assert greater independence and move beyond traditional female roles. (Lépine's suicide also typified the pathological self-hatred and self-destructiveness which regularly features in such acts, and which makes it difficult to speak of a simple exercise of "patriarchal power.")

Some carried the argument of generalized male responsibility further still. "Men kill women and children as a proprietary, vengeful and terrorist act," wrote Montréal Men Against Sexism. "They do so with the support of a sexist society and judicial system. As pro-feminist men, we try to reveal and to end this continuing massacre, which will go on as long as we do not end sexism and sexist violence, along with all of men's alibis for them."

Source: [www.gendercide.org/case\\_montreal.html](http://www.gendercide.org/case_montreal.html)

## *Responding...*cont'd from Page 1

The following is a story of success from our emergency shelter. Details have been altered to protect the client's identity.

On a cold night, Mr. Bradley and two of his five children fled their home from a northern community. Throughout his marriage, his partner physically, emotionally, verbally and financially abused him. Mr. Bradley showed the scars on his face, forehead, arms, back and legs as tears streamed down his cheeks. Battered with a mug, her fists and feet, he was left exhausted, shamed and humiliated by the constant violence in the home. He stated,

***"I cannot do this any longer. I am exhausted and my kids are being affected too."***

He explained that he had left before, then returned, because she promised it would be different.

***"I cannot believe this is happening again."***

Desperate for help, he contacted a service for abused women and was offered shelter in a low-priced hotel with his children. He reluctantly agreed that these accommodations would be the best available transition for him and his family, and that this would be safer than the streets.

Mr. Bradley accessed the domestic violence support group at the **Men's Resource Centre (MRC)**, along with counselling services. Initially he was astonished that there was a place for men to access and wished he had known of this service years ago. Because of his resilience, love for his children, and skills gained from the MRC, Mr. Bradley and his family have a new start toward a life without violence.

The launch of the **MRC Emergency Shelter Unit** on November 18, 2011, addresses one of the gaps in service in the area of domestic violence. Until recently, men who left situations of abuse with their children have not had access to a home-like shelter.

The opening also represents an opportunity for all of us concerned about domestic violence to engage in conversation about the complexities of gender, oppression and violence. In *Abused Men: The Hidden Side of Domestic Violence*, Phillip Cook asserts that we "need to free ourselves of the mind-set that sees our own issues as the most important issues...that only serves to blind us to the interconnectedness of the problems and solutions." (Cook, 2009)

In an attempt to understand experiences of everyone affected by domestic violence, we are likely to find challenges to our understanding, and opportunities that had been overlooked. Many of us have been inspired by Jack Layton's parting words, and their power to unite us in a spirit of cooperation and hopefulness. Our hope at MRC is that we can all engage in conversation in a similar

spirit of unity and openness, grounded in our common belief that everyone deserves respect and safety in their home. ☘

### Men's Resource Centre

**Phone:** 204.415.6797 ext. 250

**Toll-free:** 1.855.MRC.MRCS  
(1.855.672.6727)

**E-mail:** [mrc@mens-resource-centre.ca](mailto:mrc@mens-resource-centre.ca)

200 – 321 McDermot Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3A 0A3

## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



**December 5 - 9, 2011 - Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop for Post-Secondary Institutions**, hosted by Proactive Resolutions. The event will be held at Pond Inlet Refectory, Brock University Niagara Region, St. Catherine's, ON. For professionals within and outside of post-secondary institutions interested in assessing and managing violence risk from areas including administration, human resources, faculty relations, resident life, security, and social services. For more information refer to [www.proactive-resolutions.com/events/brockvram-psi.html](http://www.proactive-resolutions.com/events/brockvram-psi.html), or e-mail [info@proactive-resolutions.com](mailto:info@proactive-resolutions.com).

**February 15, 2012 - Fab Fem Fundraiser**, hosted by the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre. The event will be held at the West End Cultural Centre and will celebrate the outstanding artistic contributions women bring to our community. The fundraiser provides a magnificent evening of entertainment in the depths of the Winnipeg winter!

**February 27 - March 1, 2012 - 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters**, hosted by the U.S. National Network to End Domestic Violence. The conference will be held in Washington, DC, USA. The conference is geared toward individuals who work on violence against women issues, specifically employees or volunteers of programs that support or provide services, resources or shelter for victims. The conference will also address broader issues, such as technology, economics, and the law as they relate to violence against women. Registration cost is determined on your profession (student, NGO delegate, other), and the country from which you travel. For more information refer to [www.worldshelterconference.org](http://www.worldshelterconference.org), or call 1-202-543-5566.



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**PLEASE NOTE NEW DATES FOR SUBMISSION IN 2012**



**Call for Letters of Intent**

**Released November 1, 2011**

**Deadline for Submissions**

**January 20, 2012**

**Full Applications Due** (Applicants will be notified via e-mail if they are invited to submit)

**March 16, 2012**

**Notice to Successful Applicants**

**May 31, 2012**

The CARE Grant Program furthers Prairieaction Foundation's goal to support community-based research into solutions to violence and abuse. The Program funds qualifying charitable organizations for research projects that identify potential strategies, models and methods to ultimately eliminate the issues and impact of family violence and abuse.

**RESOLVE Research Network**

We recognize that in many situations, community-based organizations that work at the heart of an issue may benefit from working collaboratively with academic researchers and other relevant partners. RESOLVE coordinates and supports research and is available to work in partnership with community-based organizations in developing action oriented research projects. If you require this type of support in developing your proposal or facilitating your research, we encourage you to contact the RESOLVE office in your province.

If you have any questions about the CARE Grants program, please visit our website at [www.prairieaction.ca](http://www.prairieaction.ca), or contact **Kirsten Parker**, *Foundation Coordinator*, at [kirsten@prairieaction.ca](mailto:kirsten@prairieaction.ca). ☘

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*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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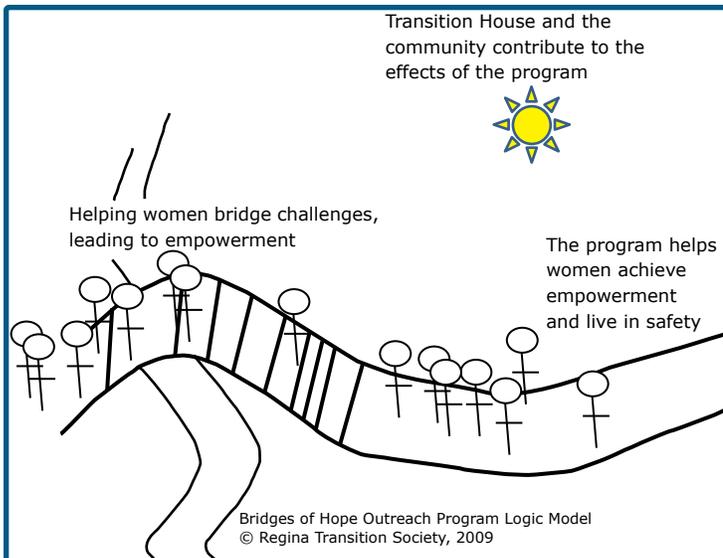
*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *The Road to Empowerment: An Evaluation of the Bridges of Hope Outreach Program at Transition House Regina*



*by Meghan Woods, Kim Fellner, Maria Hendrika, and Mary Hampton*



In the program design, Maria and Kim planned to conduct an evaluation in the early stages in order to understand how the program helps women after they leave the shelter. They thought an outsider's perspective on how the program works and recommendations for program development would suit their needs. Kim and Maria also hoped that by hiring someone not involved in Regina Transition House, clients and staff would feel comfortable sharing what they thought was good about the program and what needed improvement. After receiving funding from the PrairieAction Foundation CARE grant, Maria and Kim invited **Dr. Mary Hampton** and graduate student **Meghan Woods**, both from the University of Regina RESOLVE team, to conduct an evaluation of the program.

To gather information about the program, focus groups and interviews were conducted, and client files were coded. The goal was to understand how the pieces of the program work together to help women leaving Regina Transition House achieve their own goals of empowerment and violence free lives. Focus groups were conducted with nine women in the program, and nine staff members participated in focus groups

**Bridges of Hope... cont'd on page 6**

**H**earing that your clients think you are doing a good job is exciting, which **Kim Fellner**, Outreach Co-ordinator, and **Maria Hendrika**, Executive Director at **Regina Transition House**, discovered through evaluations of their brand new **Bridges of Hope Outreach Program**. The Bridges of Hope Outreach Program was created in April 2008 to help the women and children staying at Transition House to establish violence-free lives after leaving the shelter.

According to Maria, everything came together at the right time for the program start. She knew that outreach programs help meet a need for women who leave abusive relationships, and researchers have found that outreach programs can be helpful to survivors of inter-personal violence, which contributes to their well-being.

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## *Abuse of Older Adults: A Canadian Gerontological Association National Conference Activity Report (Winnipeg, October 2009)*



*by Kerstin Stieber Roger, Janelle Curtis, Charmaine Spencer, and Susan Crichton*

### **Defining Elder Abuse**

According to the Manitoba Seniors and Healthy Aging Secretariat, elder abuse in Manitoba is defined as “any action or inaction by a person in a relationship of trust which jeopardizes the health or well-being of an older person.” Similar in some regards to child neglect, elder neglect refers to situations where a spouse, partner, family member or other key person either intentionally or unintentionally withholds care and/or attention from an older adult who is not able to take care of her or his own needs.

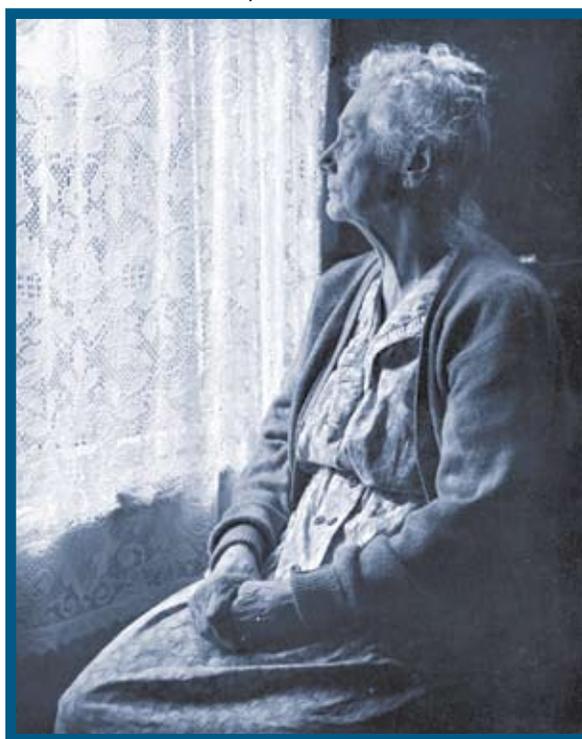
### **International, National and Local Elder Abuse Organizations**

The **International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)** is an organization dedicated to the global dissemination of information as part of its commitment to the world-wide prevention of the abuse of older people. The **Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (CNPEA)** is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of the abuse of older people in Canada. The **Manitoba Seniors and Healthy Aging Secretariat** continues to lead a province-wide elder abuse strategy. The **Elder Abuse Strategy** includes an abuse line, community development, education and awareness, research and counseling services. They support a safe suite that provides a safe haven for older adults leaving an abusive relationship.

### **Canadian Association on Gerontology National Conference (CAG)**

**Charmaine Spencer**, *Research Associate*, Gerontology Research Centre, Simon Fraser University, **Susan Crichton** (*Senior Consultant Policy Analyst*, Federal Elder Abuse Initiative, Public Health Agency of Canada), and **Kerstin Roger** (*Assistant Professor*, Family Social

Science, University of Manitoba) presented a panel discussion at the **Canadian Association of Gerontology** on a highly publicized New Brunswick case – the elder neglect and death of **Kathleen Grant**. The panel examined areas of protective legislation, competency/capacity and intervention and prevention efforts. A dynamic discussion about the family relationships and other key issues ensued with over twenty participants.



There were several other paper/poster presentations at CAG on abuse and neglect of older adults, including a poster by **Silvia Straka** (University of Manitoba, Social Work) on intimate partner violence among older couples in Quebec. Charmaine Spencer and **Christine Walsh** (University of Calgary) presented on the current status of prevalence research and screening tools in this area. The graduate student poster prize at the conference went to **Kristel LeBlanc**, titled *What do we know about intimate partner violence experienced by women in later life?*

### **CAG Elder Abuse Pre-Conference Workshop**

A full day pre-conference workshop on elder abuse was also held at the 38th annual **Canadian Association on Gerontology Conference** titled ***Rippling Effects of Multi-Disciplinary Approaches***. Keynote presenter, **Detective Constable Christina Wolf**, *Elder Abuse Section*, Ottawa Police Service reviewed the challenges of working collaboratively within privacy legislation frameworks. Case studies focused on building relationships between community agencies, health professionals, law enforcement and others; and promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to responding to incidents of elder abuse. ❀

## Manitoba Update



by Jocelyn Proulx

### The End of a Journey

In Fall of 2005, we began to interview women for the *Healing Journey Project*, a longitudinal study of women who had experienced intimate partner violence. In these early months of 2010, we are near the end of these interviews. These four years produced rich and varied information that will inform community organizations, the academic literature, and policy makers for the next several years. The project has also produced collaborative community/academic partnerships and a very human connection between researcher and participant that is unlikely in projects with only one episode of data collection.

The Healing Journey included seven waves of interviews and, for 32 women, an additional interview where they talked in more detail about their life and experiences of violence and abuse. During this time many interviewers and participants established a rapport that represented a connection between academia and the public as well as a connection between individuals.

### Rapport and Attrition

The rapport between interviewers and participants helped to develop respect for each other's time and understanding of each other's circumstances. In turn, this helped them to maintain contact despite personal issues, schedules, and mobility, thereby keeping attrition rates down. Originally, 222 Manitoba women were recruited for the study. The current number of women interviewed for the last interview is 130, with another ten interviews anticipated in the near future, giving a retention rate of 60%. This retention rate is similar to those obtained by others doing longitudinal research on intimate partner violence and is commendable given the sensitivity of the topic and the mobility of the population.

Interviewers and participants kept in touch between interviews through phone calls or emails. Many of the participants would contact interviewers or other members of the research team to inform them that they had moved or changed their number. Some

wanted to continue with the project despite moving to another province and in one case, to a different country. A number of women had gone back to school or gained employment and, despite time for interviews being difficult to fit into their schedule, they were very accommodating.

### The Human Connection

Because of the information shared and the time spent together, many participants and interviewers formed a connection. Time was often spent either before or after the interviews talking about things that had happened or changed in participants' lives. Some exchanged cards during the holiday season, and participants would show pictures of their children or discuss new endeavours such as jobs, going back to school, or purchasing a house.



### Saying Goodbye

The rapport built between interviews and participants, the personal nature of the questions answered, and the regular contact within the past four years, meant that the end of the interviews was often difficult for both individuals. Interviewers indicated that they would miss the participants and would think about them and wonder how they were doing. Participants also expressed a sense of ending and a few maintained contact with their interviewers via email, asking for information, or sending holiday greetings. At the final interview many wanted to know how they could stay connected with the study to find out some of the results. All were given the RESOLVE website [www.umanitoba.ca/resolve](http://www.umanitoba.ca/resolve), where information about the longitudinal study can be found under **What's New**.

With the end of the interviews, the data analysis and information sharing phase of the project will become more prominent. As more analyses are done on the data the website will contain an increasing amount of information, which will allow participants and all other interested individuals to keep up with the information learned from this project. ❧

## Saskatchewan Update



by Ann Bishop, Conference Organizer and RESOLVE Saskatchewan Project Coordinator

**R**ESOLVE Saskatchewan is happy to report that **Research Day 2009** was a huge success, with a respectable 196 participants in attendance. Representatives from the Government of Saskatchewan, City of Regina, University of Regina, and University of Saskatchewan brought greetings to the Thursday evening social and voiced support for our efforts to end violence against women. The new president of the PrairieAction Foundation, **Mary Rose Maguire**, also voiced her personal support and PrairieAction Foundation's ongoing commitment to RESOLVE's work.

The following day our morning keynote speaker, **Senator Raynell Andreychuk**, applauded RESOLVE's research. Senator Andreychuk is a former family court judge, and has seen the effects of violence on families firsthand. She stated that the research conducted by those affiliated with RESOLVE is the kind

of activity that lets people such as herself know what works. She noted that violence is no longer something to be ashamed of, or hidden, but instead is something that will no longer be tolerated by society. More needs to be done to prevent family violence in our communities, so the work must continue.

After lunch, our second keynote speaker took stage. **Ken Crawford** is a natural story-teller and had people laughing and crying with his presentation. Ken's twenty plus years of experience in the field of family violence gave him a lot of material to work with. Over the years he has worked to help individuals, organizations and governments adapt, grow, and work for safe, respectful communities. Ken's stories were inspirational and brought comfort and encouragement to many in the audience. One person was moved to write a touching letter to us.



Senator Raynell Andreychuk

Thirty-six presentations were made and were well received. Most popular were the Healing Journey presentations, with standing room only in more than one session. Many of the presentations allowed graduate students to show their stuff. Obviously our "researchers of tomorrow" were keen to present their findings and it was all first rate. Another highlight was art work displayed by the Prairieaction Foundation's artist-in-residence, Teresa Posyniak.

Evaluation forms were consolidated shortly after the conference and results were positive. Some participants would have liked to see more in-depth treatment of the topics but overall everyone seemed very pleased. We had more than one person say that this was the best conference they'd ever attended! Evaluation results can be found on our website at [www.uregina.ca/resolve/RESOLVE/news.htm](http://www.uregina.ca/resolve/RESOLVE/news.htm).

Our conference would not have happened without our wonderful volunteers. Our volunteer coordinators **Kim Zorn** and **Karlen Herauf**, were crucial to the outcome of the event. Kim and Karlen are University of Regina students who volunteered many hours to make our conference such a success. Individuals from RESOLVE Saskatchewan's Steering Committee, who acted as moderators, also get a note of thanks. No arm twisting was required for their assistance!

The planning group did a great organization job and the venue people also deserve a note of thanks for their great facilities and exceptional food.



Ken Crawford

All of us at RESOLVE Saskatchewan hope that all participants enjoyed their experience. See you all next year in Calgary at RESOLVE Research Day 2010! ☘

## Alberta Update



by Leslie M. Tutty

**L**ast year we submitted a report of the Alberta portion of the tri-provincial *Healing Journey* to the **Alberta Centre on Child, Family and Community Research**, which funded a component entitled *A longitudinal study of mothers affected by intimate partner violence: Perceptions of their Children's Well-being and Family-related Service Utilization*. We reported some of those findings in the February 2009 RESOLVE Newsletter. Our project funding was extended until December 31, 2009. This update presents some new results from that project, focussed on post-separation issues for the mothers and their children.

To recap the basics, in April, 2007, we completed recruiting 231 Alberta women in for Wave one of the Healing Journey Project in Alberta, with 92.6% or 214 women being mothers. The women were an average age of 38 years of age with an average yearly total family income of \$24,318 (range of 0 to \$235,000). A little more than half of the mothers were Caucasian, almost one-third are Aboriginal or Métis (32%) and a smaller group were from other visible minority backgrounds (11%).

Research has tended to focus on abusive behaviours towards women when couples are together. Less has been written about abuse that continues post-separation, when custody and access can become the new venue for continuing to exert power and control over the woman. The report described a number of the partner's abusive tactics targeting either the children or the mothers' sense of competency or her reputation as a competent mother. The most common examples of such tactics reported by the Alberta woman are abusive partners telling others that they are bad mothers, trying to control the way they raises their children and trying to control the children. Less common, but still serious concerns, were threats to abduct or hurt the children. Indeed, 25 of 148 women specified that their abusive partners had abducted their children once or more than once.

The impact of such actions or threats to the children or to the mother's sense of competency was generally serious, creating considerable anxiety, fear and upset. Nevertheless, even when still together, the women utilized numerous strategies to protect the children from being exposed to or suffering the consequences

of the abuse. The list of strategies included informal mothering strategies such as introducing activities to help the children feel good about themselves, relationship strategies with the partner, such as ending the relationship and contacting formal agencies such as the police, child welfare or shelters. Across these categories, the women saw the most effective strategies as separating/leaving the relationship, being affectionate with the children, parenting them alone, support from women's shelters and avoiding potentially violence situations.

**Lorraine Radtke**, University of Calgary, **Jan Reimer**, Provincial Coordinator of the Alberta Council of Women's shelters and **Dr. Leslie Tutty**, Academic Research Coordinator of RESOLVE Alberta (with input from **Carolyn Goard**, also from the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters) presented some of the Healing Journey Alberta results in a keynote address at the **Diverse Voices** conference in Edmonton in November, 2009. Information about mothering was offered in a subsequent breakout session. The audiences for both seemed appreciative of the information and the research in general. ☘



Jacqueline Warrell, our new research assistant at RESOLVE Alberta

*Bridges of Hope* cont'd from page 1

and individual interviews. A version of the program model (pictured on cover) was presented at the RESOLVE Research Day 2009.

Information for the program model was collected from participant files, and interview data was analyzed to understand the women's needs; what went into running the program; what participation in the program involved; how the program interacted with the shelter and the community; and how the program affected women's lives. In total, 49 women from Transition House accessed the program during its first twelve months. Women reported a wide range of needs that they saw the program address, including help with addictions, meeting such basic needs as food and housing, advocacy, education, employment, transportation, legal support, life skills development, parenting support, meeting children's needs, and providing for their family at Christmas.

Women also described many important ingredients to the running of this program. Without funding, food donations, clothing, household items, and a vehicle for transportation, clients' needs could not be met. Clients and staff also reported that Kim Fellner as the Outreach Co-ordinator is an important "ingredient to success" for the program. They described her as approachable, knowledgeable, and flexible - all qualities emphasized as important in an Outreach Co-ordinator.

Housing the program at Transition House is also helpful to the program and the shelter, as Kim has contact with clients during their stay, then invites them to join the program after they leave the shelter. Staff at Transition House, who include the Child Counsellor and Domestic Violence Counsellors, are involved in the administration of the program when the Outreach Co-ordinator is not available. At these times, clients can receive counselling from the Domestic Violence Counsellors by phone and counsellors then update the Outreach Co-ordinator on this contact. Staff also emphasized that they enjoy hearing how clients are doing after they leave the shelter, which was not always possible before the outreach program began.

Program activities have evolved over the first year of existence. Depending on their needs, women participate in such activities as advocacy and referrals to community services. They receive childcare in order to participate in program events, support groups, and such social events as a holiday party, summer picnic, and fall feast. Clients also participate in individual meetings with the Outreach

Co-ordinator in person or by phone, and obtain education and supportive counselling.

Women reported receiving emotional support in the program. For example, a client noted *"the Outreach Coordinator would say, 'Look at all you've done and you did this all on your own. You told me that last time anything you tried to have, he took away. And look at all you have now.' And she just helped me like that and reminded me about the good things I've done and that I've done it on my own."* Women also described having their basic needs met, receiving education on violence and abuse, safety planning, and reducing isolation through their relationship with Kim and other program clients.

The program has also helped women bridge such challenges as addiction, continued violence, poverty, and difficulty finding transportation to attend appointments. Staff and clients also described an important relationship between the program and the community, particularly because the program is referral based. Women were linked with such community agencies as the Blue Mantel, Dress for Success, second stage shelters, and Family Services Regina. Participants stated that the program should offer a mentorship program, more legal support, more Elder involvement, and more help with meeting basic needs.

Although the program is in its early stages, women and staff report seeing positive changes in participants' lives. Overall, the women in the program said they think the program helps by connecting them to community resources, providing support, and helping them to overcome challenges. Clients emphasized that the program was very helpful at times when they felt completely alone. As one client stated, *"You feel like you've got somebody on your side."* ❧



Pictured (left to right): *Meghan Woods, Maria Hendrika, and Kim Fellner*

## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



**February 27 & March 6, 2010 - FREE Self Defense Courses for Women** presented by the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre. The courses will be held at St. Andrew's United Church, 255 Oak Street in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Using the technique of Wen-Do, a certified instructor will offer discussion and physical skills in a supportive and non-competitive atmosphere, regardless of age or ability. Supported by The Winnipeg Foundation and the Government of Manitoba - Department of Family Services. To register, please call **(204) 477-1123**.

**March 10–12, 2010 - 8th Annual Youth, Violence & Changing Times Training Conference** presented by the First Nations Training and Consulting Services. Sessions will be held at the Fairmont Empress in Victoria, British Columbia. Conference information is available at [www.firstpeoplescanada.com/YC2010%20Registration%20package.pdf](http://www.firstpeoplescanada.com/YC2010%20Registration%20package.pdf). For more information contact First Nations Training and Consulting Services at **(250) 652-7097** or [admin@fntcs.com](mailto:admin@fntcs.com).

**March 22–25, 2010 - 26th National Symposium on Child Abuse** presented by the National Children's Advocacy Center. The event will be held at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama, USA. Symposium details are available at [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org), select the symposium link. For additional information, contact Marilyn Grundy at [mgrundy@nationalcac.org](mailto:mgrundy@nationalcac.org) or **(256) 327-3863**.

**May 13–14, 2010 - Becoming Ethical Workshop** presented by Professional Initiatives, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This workshop will focus on the nature of restoration in the aftermath of abuse. Alan Jenkins will critique popular ideas concerning remorse, apology, forgiveness and reconciliation, while highlighting possibilities for ethical practices of restorative action. Practical approaches to creating ethical relationships and family and community intervention will be outlined and demonstrated with a specific focus upon facing shame without shaming; moving from ethical realization to restitution; determining respectful forms of connection which are accountable; and finding integrity through ethical action. Alan Jenkins is a counselor, consultant and trainer, and has worked for 25 years in the field of therapeutic intervention with men and boys who have engaged in violence and abusive behaviour. For more information, contact Professional Initiatives at **(204) 254-7148** or e-mail [pi\\_workshop@mts.net](mailto:pi_workshop@mts.net).

### Community Action, Research & Education (CARE) Grant Program

#### Call for Letters of Intent 2010

**Deadline: March 25, 2010**

The CARE Grant Program furthers **Prairieaction Foundation's** goal to support community-based research into solutions to violence and abuse. The Program funds qualifying charitable organizations to do research projects that identify potential strategies, models and methods to ultimately eliminate the issues and impact of family violence and abuse.

At *Prairieaction* Foundation, we believe that results-oriented research can reduce or eliminate violence and abuse in our communities by telling us how effective laws and policies, well-designed programs and well-resourced community responses can make a difference in the lives of families and our communities every day.

The essence of the CARE Grant Program is to fund human services agencies and other registered charities for research that will:

- Identify effective strategies, models and methods to prevent and alleviate violence and abuse; or
- Demonstrate the impact of a specific program or approach in providing solutions to violence and/or abuse.

For details, please visit [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca/Documents/CARE grants LOI 2010.pdf](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca/Documents/CARE_grants_LOI_2010.pdf).

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



**Prairieaction**  
FOUNDATION



*We're finding solutions to protect women and children from violence and abuse!*

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Web site: [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca)

## *Building More Understanding Though Closer Relationships*



The role of the Prairieaction Foundation is to be an innovative funding partner in finding solutions to protect women and children from violence and abuse. RESOLVE's research helps to answer the core question "How do we know if we're doing the right things if we don't know what works?"

We time our annual in-person meeting to take place the day before RESOLVE's Research Day. This meeting allows us to hear directly from researchers about the answers to the core question (mentioned above). At our 2009 meeting, Dr. Jane Urşel, director for RESOLVE Manitoba, presented the results of her work on *Problem Solving Justice: Lessons Learned and Ongoing Challenges of The Winnipeg Family Violence Court*.

The **Community Action, Research & Education** (CARE) grant program furthers Prairieaction's goals by supporting community-based research. The Regina Transition Women's Society received a CARE grant to answer the question "Does the Transition House's Bridge of Hope Outreach Program make a difference in the lives of the women it services?" Maria Hendrika, the Society's Executive Director, reported at the January board meeting that our grant allowed them to answer this question in the affirmative—and to move forward with finding more long-term funding for the program. (See front page article.)

Our aim in creating more understanding with our RESOLVE and CARE stakeholders is to be able to provide our donors with a stronger case for investing in research. ☘

### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *The Laurel Centre: 25 Years of Service to the Community*



*by Suhad Bisharat, Executive Director, The Laurel Centre. Inc.*



**2010** is a special year for **The Laurel Centre**, as we celebrate our 25th anniversary. This event is held to celebrate the healing and success stories of the women we see at The Laurel Centre.

Before introducing the agency, it is important to provide the history of The Laurel Centre, including the significance of the name.

### **Significance of the Laurel Tree**

A Greek myth tells the story of a wood nymph named Daphne, who is much like the Greek goddess Diana – independent, athletic, a huntress. In the myth, the god Apollo pursued Daphne in what is interpreted today as a sexual attack. Daphne called to the river god for help and was transformed into a laurel tree – a symbol of victory and triumph.

The Laurel Centre represents the transformation and triumph of its clients. The laurel leaf is a symbol featured in the Centre's logo.

### **History of The Laurel Centre**

In the early 1980's, those who worked in the addictions field realized that many addicted women – up to 80% –also struggled to overcome the trauma that was a result of childhood sexual abuse. Many were unable to deal with their addictions because their lives were too painful.

At the time there were no services for women that treated addictions and abuse together. To meet this need, the Women's Post Treatment Centre was founded in 1985. In 1997 the centre changed its name to The Laurel Centre.

The Centre has evolved and grown into one of the most respected organizations of its kind and has gained recognition across the country for its unique contribution to women's health.

### **Who is eligible for this service?**

Any woman who experiences the traumatic effects of childhood sexual abuse can receive group and individual long term counselling free of charge.

### **Effects of unresolved trauma**

The Centre recognizes mental health challenges and compulsive coping behaviours, including addictions, as being some of the possible long-term consequences of unresolved trauma.

Because of the pain it causes, many adult female survivors have mixed feelings about talking to anyone about their childhood. Adult survivors of childhood sexual abuses often experience difficulties in later

**Laurel Centre... cont'd on page 6**

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***Call for Proposals  
for the  
Next Publication in the RESOLVE Book Series***

RESOLVE is now accepting proposals from potential editors for the next book in the RESOLVE book series. Proposed books can represent a topic previously not covered in the existing books in the series or be an update of topics covered in some of the other books in the series, particularly some of the earlier books in the series (a description of these books can be found on the RESOLVE website). All books proposed must reflect a topic related to family violence and/or violence against women and children. Proposals must include the following information within a **maximum of 5 single spaced pages**:

**1. Book Co-Editors**

Include the names, titles, organizational affiliation, contact information and a professional or personal biography for each co-editor. The biography should convey how the individual is connected to the topic of their proposed book. Books require one academic co-editor and one co-editor from the community.

**2. Tentative Title of the Book**

It is understood that this title may change.

**3. Brief Description of the Book Topic**

Describe the topic of the book and what issues will be covered under this topic.

**4. Explain Why this is a Topic that is Timely or that Needs to be Explored**

**5. A Tentative List of Chapters and their Authors**

It is understood that all of the chapters and their authors may not yet be determined, therefore ideas for at least four chapters should be presented, with indication that other chapters will be included. Any other information about the remaining chapters will be welcome. Identify if you are open to other people submitting chapters.

***Deadline for Proposals is Monday June 7, 2010, 4:00PM CST***

Proposals must be sent electronically in Microsoft Word to:

Jocelyn Proulx

[proulxjb@ms.umanitoba.ca](mailto:proulxjb@ms.umanitoba.ca)

Questions can be directed to Jocelyn Proulx at the e-mail above or at **(204) 474-7410**.

## Manitoba Update: Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada



by Cheryl Fraehlich

**F**rom the 1800s until the last school closed in 1996, more than 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were separated from their families and communities, and placed in Indian Residential Schools across Canada. The purpose of these schools was to isolate children from any influence of their families, values, and traditions, and to assimilate them into the dominant culture. In many instances children who attended the church run schools experienced severe mistreatment that included emotional, physical and sexual abuse, and neglect. Many children died while attending or trying to escape from these schools. Although it has been over a decade since the last school ceased operation, the residential school system has caused great harm for generations of Aboriginal people, and the devastating effects on individuals, their families, and communities contribute to existing social problems. Unfortunately, there is a lack of awareness among Canadians about the realities of the residential schools.

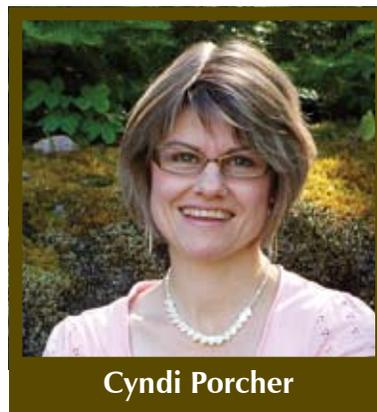
The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, an agreement intended to begin the repair of harm caused by the residential schools, was implemented in 2007. In addition to providing compensation to students of residential schools, the agreement involved the establishment of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). The mandate of the TRC is to create a public historical record that documents what happened in residential schools, and the impact of these schools. A ten-member Indian Residential School Survivor Committee advises the Commission that is chaired by the **Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair**, Manitoba's first Aboriginal judge. Justice Sinclair serves with two other Commissioners, **Marie Wilson** and **Chief Wilton Littlechild**. The TRC made history with the official opening of their national head office in Winnipeg on April 8, 2010.

One of the primary activities of the TRC is to gather statements about residential school experiences from former students, their families and communities. These statements will be used to prepare a complete historical record of the operation of the schools. Equally important, allowing survivors and their families to tell their stories is an important step in the process of healing and reconciliation. There are an estimated 80,000 former students living in Canada today. The

TRC will also host national and community events, provide and support public education, and support commemorative activities that honour and pay tribute to residential school survivors. In addition, the TRC will investigate student deaths and disappearances from the residential schools. More information about the TRC and planned activities is available through their website at [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca).



### Other RESOLVE Manitoba News



Cyndi Porcher

Although we were sad to say goodbye to Julie Shirliff when she moved to Ontario last year, we are very pleased to introduce our new office manager, **Cyndi Porcher**. Cyndi joined RESOLVE as acting office manager in April 2009 and brings 20 years of administrative assistant

experience to this position. Thanks to Cyndi's professionalism, outstanding skills and ability, and amazingly calm demeanour, the period of transition and settling in has been seamless. We are fortunate to have Cyndi on board.

RESOLVE Manitoba Steering Committee member **Sharon Taylor** has been honoured by being named one of Winnipeg's **Most Beautiful Women** by **Winnipeg Women**



Sharon Taylor

magazine. Winnipeg Women has a ten year tradition of celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of local women. This is the fifth year that the magazine has hosted the Most Beautiful Women contest, which asks readers to nominate women who they feel best exemplify the true meaning of "beauty." Sharon was nominated for her tireless work as executive director at **Wolseley Family Place**, a multi service family resource centre for low-income families in Winnipeg. Congratulations Sharon! ❧

## Saskatchewan Update: Healing Journey Project Winding Down in Prince Albert



by Colleen Hamilton

With more than four years and 275 interviews since the first wave of participants in the Healing Journey project were recruited in Prince Albert, the project is now in the final stages of data collection. ***The Healing Journey: A Longitudinal Study of Women Who Have Been Abused by Intimate Partners*** is the first study of its kind in Canada, and examines the experience of intimate partner violence and the consequences it has on the lives of battered women in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta over a four year period. The Saskatchewan portion of the study is led by **Dr. Mary Hampton**, a Saskatchewan Population Health & Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU) researcher and Psychology professor at Luther College. SPHERU Director **Dr. Bonnie Jeffery** is also a member of the research team and oversees the project in Prince Albert. Community agencies work with the researchers and form partnerships to create results that will help to understand the cycle of abuse and the intervention and prevention strategies implemented to address the cycle.



Director Carol Soles and Support Services Worker Theresa Lanigan in the newly renovated kitchen at the Prince Albert Women's Shelter

With the drop in project activity is an opportunity to reflect on what the study has meant to Prince Albert's community agency partner, **The Prince Albert Safe Shelter for Women**. The Safe Shelter has been an invaluable contributor from the start, assisting with the creation of appropriate recruitment and data collection methods, and providing in-kind supports such as interview space and child care, as well as making staff time available for interviews. The experience has been a good one for Shelter Director **Carol Soles**, who was pleased with how the academic researchers viewed the community agencies, stating they were "embraced us as equals."

The director of the 24 bed Shelter fully expects that the hard work and dedication of the provincial team of researchers, community agencies and interviewers will be worth it in the end as findings from the study are

translated into policy and service delivery adjustments and improvements. She has already seen an impact from involvement in the study at the Prince Albert Safe Shelter, where a new position was created to provide continuing support services to women who had received services and were now back in the community. Although analysis of the study data is not complete, Soles says that through informal contacts with study participants "we became aware that clients who maintained some connection to the Shelter after receiving services seemed to be experiencing increased success in managing their lives," reinforcing a need for follow up services that had been previously identified. This allowed the Shelter director to make a stronger case for fund allocation to the position.

Having veteran Shelter staff member **Theresa Lanigan** involved in project interviews was also beneficial, as she contributed to a smoother interaction between agency and interviewer roles. As a research partner, the Shelter was interested in the success of the interviews and accommodated Theresa's schedule to allow interviews to

be held at times that fit the needs of the participants. This, in turn, allowed Theresa to stay with the project when other interviewers with less flexible schedules were not able to do so. Of the seven interviewers hired in Prince Albert over the life of the project, Theresa is the only one to have been involved in all seven waves of interviews. She has found it rewarding that the interviews "helped them to reflect on their journey and be able to see the small successes which over the period of time added up to change." She said many participants are interested in seeing the final report of the study and believe that positive outcomes will be seen down the road.

The project was funded by the **Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)**. For more information please go to [www.uregina.ca/resolve/RESOLVE/research.htm](http://www.uregina.ca/resolve/RESOLVE/research.htm). ❧

## Alberta Update



by Leslie M. Tutty

A report entitled *Finding Their Voices: Women From Religious/Ethno-Cultural Communities Speak Out About Family Violence* has recently been completed. Part of FaithLink, an initiative of Calgary's **Alliance to End Violence**, the report was authored by Drs. **Irene Sevcik**, former Program Manager of FaithLink, **Michael Rothery**, a social work professor at the University of Calgary and **Nancy Nason-Clark**, a sociology professor at the University of New Brunswick and Director of the Rave Project. The summary below is abstracted from the report.

It is commonly accepted that culture and traditional values play significant roles in the way in which women respond to domestic violence (Bent-Goodley, 2005). Tutty, Giurgiu and Traya (2010) cite a number of studies suggesting that socio-cultural factors, such as ethnicity, language, gender roles and values related to the help-seeking behavior need to be explored in various immigrant and visible minority groups (Dasgupta, 1998; Perilla & Perez, 2002; Bhuyan & Senturia, 2005; Ingram, 2007).

The FaithLink study targeted three religious/ethno-cultural communities in Calgary: Christian, Khmer-Canadian, and Jewish, all communities with which the FaithLink program has established connections. The Jewish community is well-established within the city with a population numbering approximately 8000, including Reform, Conservative and Orthodox congregations. The Khmer-Canadian community is small, numbering approximately 2000, and includes those who came as refugees in the 1980's, more recent immigrants, and Canadian-born children. It is primarily Buddhist in religious tradition, with some Christian influences.

Eighty-five women were interviewed for the project: 35 from the Jewish community, 44 from various

Christian denominations, and six from the Khmer-Canadian community. The themes common to all three constituent groups include: the acknowledgement that family violence occurs in their respective communities; that abusive behaviours are culturally and religiously defined; that marriage and family are important cultural and/or religious tenets that significantly influence how women view themselves and the decisions they make in the face of abuse from a marital partner.

Further, patriarchal structures that place women in submissive and dependent positions also influence a community's acknowledgement of, and response to domestic

abuse and the support offered to victims. Abuse impacts every aspect of the victim's life, increasing the difficulty of extricating herself from the situation and, regardless of a woman's cultural/religious beliefs, the complexities and consequences of leaving an abusive marital relationship can be daunting and long lasting.

Regardless of the varied and numerous religious and cultural issues raised by each constituent group in the study, one predominant conclusion was that the safety of women is an over-riding principle. Safety must take precedence over gender-based religious beliefs and/or cultural practices and the idealism vested in marriage and family. It must also take precedence in addressing the barriers and challenges that constrain women from disclosing abuse and leaving abusive relationships; and in changing help-seeking patterns to allow victims to access resources that are available to them. Safety must be the guiding principle on which needed resources are developed and upon which existing resources incorporate religiously and culturally sensitive services.

The report is available from the senior author at [imsevcik@telus.net](mailto:imsevcik@telus.net) and/or [resolve@ucalgary.ca](mailto:resolve@ucalgary.ca). ☞



*Laurel Centre* cont'd from page 1

life, including depression; anxiety; drug and/or alcohol problems; gambling; feelings of worthlessness; loneliness; anger; isolation; and feelings of being "different," "bad" or "evil."

In addition to these difficulties, nightmares and flashbacks may be experienced, as well as problems related to sexuality and intimacy, including possible negative feelings about men and women.

Victims of childhood sexual abuse may find it difficult to trust others. When the abuse occurred within the family as it often does, or when the abuser was a trusted friend or baby-sitter, extreme shame is felt and the victim may feel responsible for the abuse.

**Client's Story**

Allana knocked on the door of The Laurel Centre to seek what she identified as the last effort at finding help. Her childhood traumas had her live in flooded memories of pain. She tried to numb the pain and turned to alcohol and street drugs, but the pain far exceeded her ability to cope.

She tried to end her life so she could be free of this enduring pain. She made a suicide plan and decided to carry this out but failed, and found herself in a psychiatric ward. There she was medicated but the pain still did not go away.

Allana continued with street drugs, alcohol, and prescribed medication. She could no longer concentrate or keep track of her shift work schedule and was fired from her job. Her finances diminished and she could no longer afford to pay for rent or food. Her ability to cope diminished greatly and resulted in a cycle of compulsive coping to numb her pain. She arrived at a place where she saw her only solution as the sex trade—a joint, a couch, and a warm place to sleep in exchange for sex.

Allana knocked on the door of The Laurel Centre seeking help, as this was her last resort. Through long term individual counselling she was able to learn how her behaviours related to her childhood sexual abuse. She learned new ways to cope and admitted herself into a treatment program to address her addiction. Today, she is enrolled in a pre-employment program that will help her get back into the work force. She no longer uses street drugs or alcohol to numb her pain, nor is she involved in the sex trade. She has made significant changes in her life and now lives in her own apartment.

Allana's story is not unique to many of the younger and older adult women admitted to our program. Our statistics indicate that 79% of clients who complete our program report to be living free from substance use or reduced substance use; 86% report accessing employment, volunteering and/or going back to school.

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY*****Hope. Celebrate. Joy. Laughter***

Join us in celebrating the healing journey of Allana and the thousands of women like her who have accessed our services over the last 25 years.

The 25th Anniversary Celebration will take place on

**Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 6PM**

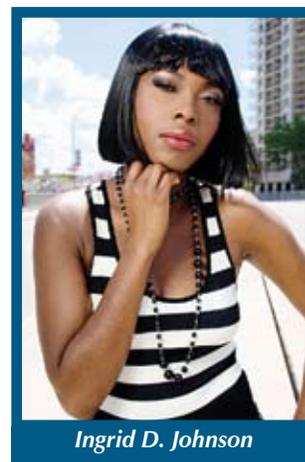
at the

Fort Garry Conference Centre, Grand Ballroom  
in Winnipeg

At this formal event we dine and celebrate the healing journey of our clients, and hear the story of The Laurel Centre from our guest speaker **Jessica Holmes**. Jessica is best known as a popular member of the long running hit show CBC's Royal Canadian Air Farce.



*Jessica Holmes*



*Ingrid D. Johnson*

The healing journey of our clients will be celebrated through songs and poetry by **Ingrid D. Johnson**, a survivor of sexual abuse, of *In The Closet Productions: A Voice for The Voiceless*.

Please visit our website, [www.thelaurelcentre.com](http://www.thelaurelcentre.com), for more information. ☘

## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



**May 26, 2010 - 25th Anniversary: Hope. Celebrate. Joy. Laughter** presented by the Laurel Centre. Join us in celebrating the healing journey of the thousands of women who have accessed our services over the last 25 years. The celebration will take place at the Fort Garry Conference Centre, Grand Ballroom, in Winnipeg, MB. Please refer to [www.thelaurelcentre.com](http://www.thelaurelcentre.com) for more information.

**June 1–3, 2010 - First Nations National Child Welfare Conference: Building Healthy Communities Through Intervention & Prevention**, hosted by First Nations Child & Family Services of New Brunswick and co-hosted by First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada. The event will be held in the Moncton, New Brunswick, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. For more information refer to [www.nsmc.ca/content/242924](http://www.nsmc.ca/content/242924); e-mail Byron Bushey, Conference Coordinator, at [byronjb@nb.aibn.com](mailto:byronjb@nb.aibn.com); or phone (506)-854-6340 or toll free 1-866-854-4656.

**June 7–10, 2010 - Pathways to Resilience II: The Social Ecology of Resilience** presented by the Resilience Research Centre. The event will be held at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. This international gathering that will explore how individuals, families and communities from different cultures and contexts can overcome adversity and thrive. Over the past eight years, the Resilience Research Centre has worked with researchers, child advocates, policy makers and service providers from many different professional backgrounds to understand the social and cultural factors that shape children's and adolescents' pathways to resilience when they are seriously disadvantaged. For more information refer to [www.resilienceresearch.org](http://www.resilienceresearch.org), telephone (902)494-3050, or e-mail [rrc@dal.ca](mailto:rrc@dal.ca).

**June 9–11, 2010 - Domestic Homicide Prevention Conference** presented by HomeFront and the University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work. The event will be held at the MacEwan Conference & Event Centre, 2500 University Drive NW, University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta. For information, please refer to [www.homicideprevention.com](http://www.homicideprevention.com) or [www.facebook.com/pages/Calgary-AB/2nd-Annual-Canadian-Domestic-Homicide-Prevention-Conference/275492668605?ref=mf](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Calgary-AB/2nd-Annual-Canadian-Domestic-Homicide-Prevention-Conference/275492668605?ref=mf). For additional information please contact e=mc2 event management inc. or (403)770-2698 or toll free in North America at 1-866-851-3517, or e-mail [conference@emc2events.com](mailto:conference@emc2events.com).

**July 11–13, 2010 - International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference** presented by the Family Research Laboratory and the Crimes against Children Research Center. The event will be held in the Sheraton Harborside Hotel and Conference Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA. For more information refer to [www.scra27.org/calendar/internationalfamilyviolenceandchildvictimizationre](http://www.scra27.org/calendar/internationalfamilyviolenceandchildvictimizationre) or e-mail [frl.conference@unh.edu](mailto:frl.conference@unh.edu).

**July 12–15, 2010 - National Family Law Program** presented by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada. The event will be held at the Victoria Conference Centre in Victoria, British Columbia. Topics include a session on Domestic Violence and Child Custody Issues. For more information refer to [www.flsc.ca/en/pdf/NFLP2010-brochure.pdf](http://www.flsc.ca/en/pdf/NFLP2010-brochure.pdf) or contact Heather Walker, Program Coordinator at (705)879-3082, or by e-mail at [nationalfamilylawprogram@sympatico.ca](mailto:nationalfamilylawprogram@sympatico.ca).

**July 31–August 4, 2010 - Changing Faces of the Movement: NCADV's and NOMAS' Collaborative Conference on Ending Violence** presented by National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the National Organization for Men Against Sexism. The event will be held at the The Hilton Anaheim in Anaheim, California, USA. For information refer to [www.ncadv.org/conferences/GeneralConferenceInformationandOverview-2.php](http://www.ncadv.org/conferences/GeneralConferenceInformationandOverview-2.php) or e-mail Gretchen Shaw, NCADV Conference Coordinator, at [conference2010@ncadv.org](mailto:conference2010@ncadv.org).

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*We're finding solutions to protect women and children from violence and abuse!*

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## *Teri Posyniak: Our Artist-in-Residence*



Long before Teresa (Teri) Posyniak became our artist-in-residence in 2008, she participated in fund-raising events and lent her images for RESOLVE'S book covers. At RESOLVE's 2009 Research Day Teri presented a paper entitled *Exploring Resiliency Through Art*, and continues to promote our mission in her public lectures, exhibitions, and community work.

Her involvement in social issues is often reflected in her paintings and sculptures, the main example of which is her public sculpture *Lest We Forget*, where the names and ages of 135 murdered Canadian women are carefully written on the surface. The sculpture found a permanent home on the University of Calgary campus, where it continues to heighten awareness of violence against women.

Teri received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Regina and her Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Calgary. The recipient of many awards, Teri's paintings and sculptures have been exhibited across Canada. Her work is included in many national and international private, corporate, and public collections.

*Neighbourhood Watch III*, shown here, is featured in our new marketing materials.



Her website, [www.teresaposyniak.com](http://www.teresaposyniak.com), clearly demonstrates her passion and creative advocacy for social justice. ☘

### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

~ Dr. Jane Uršel ~  
Director (Academic)

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *Working in Partnership With the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*



*by Cheryl Fraehlich*

*"The survivors' stories are something that I will carry with me always. I continue to be inspired by their tremendous strength and ability to carry on in the face of so much pain." Ginelle Giacomini, RESOLVE Statement Gatherer.*

As part of their mandate to create a public historical record that documents what happened in residential schools and the impact of these schools, the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada** (TRC) has the monumental task of gathering statements about residential school experiences from former students, their families and communities across Canada. RESOLVE Manitoba is excited to be collaborating with the TRC to facilitate statement gathering in Winnipeg and other parts of the province. RESOLVE Saskatchewan is undertaking a similar project.

In February, 2010, **Dr. Jane Ursel** was invited to discuss the potential for a partnership with representatives of the TRC. The focus of these discussions was RESOLVE's history of partnering with community agencies on other projects and how such a model might be used to facilitate statement gathering within Winnipeg, home to the largest urban population of Aboriginal people in Canada. These discussions laid the foundation for a collaborative agreement between RESOLVE, the TRC and the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development, who provides financial support for statement gatherers.

Hiring and training individuals to work as statement gatherers was, in fact, one of the first steps in the project. The RESOLVE Manitoba statement gathering team consists of a group of truly wonderful people; the

team includes a mix of men and women of different ages, and students and community members. All but one is Aboriginal and a few speak Aboriginal languages in addition to English. All of our statement gatherers are very caring and dedicated individuals who are eager to do anything they can to help survivors share stories about the residential school experience.

Their work began at the first of seven national public events organized by the TRC and held at The Forks National Historic Site in Winnipeg June 16–19. These national events are opportunities to honour those impacted by residential schools, and to promote awareness among the Canadian public by providing education about the history of the residential schools system. Between 30,000 and 40,000 people, including residential school survivors, their families, community members, TRC Commissioners and a number of dignitaries, were in attendance over the four days. In addition to statement taking in private and public forums, the national gathering included many ceremonies, exhibitions and activities related to education and research. Along with the 14 RESOLVE Manitoba statement gatherers, ten statement gatherers from RESOLVE Saskatchewan travelled to Winnipeg to work gathering private statements at the event. In

**Partnership with the TRC... cont'd on page 6**

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| 4. RESOLVE Saskatchewan Update | 7. Announcements / Conferences      |
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## *Torn From Our Midst: Voices of Grief, Healing and Action from the Missing Indigenous Women Conference, 2008*

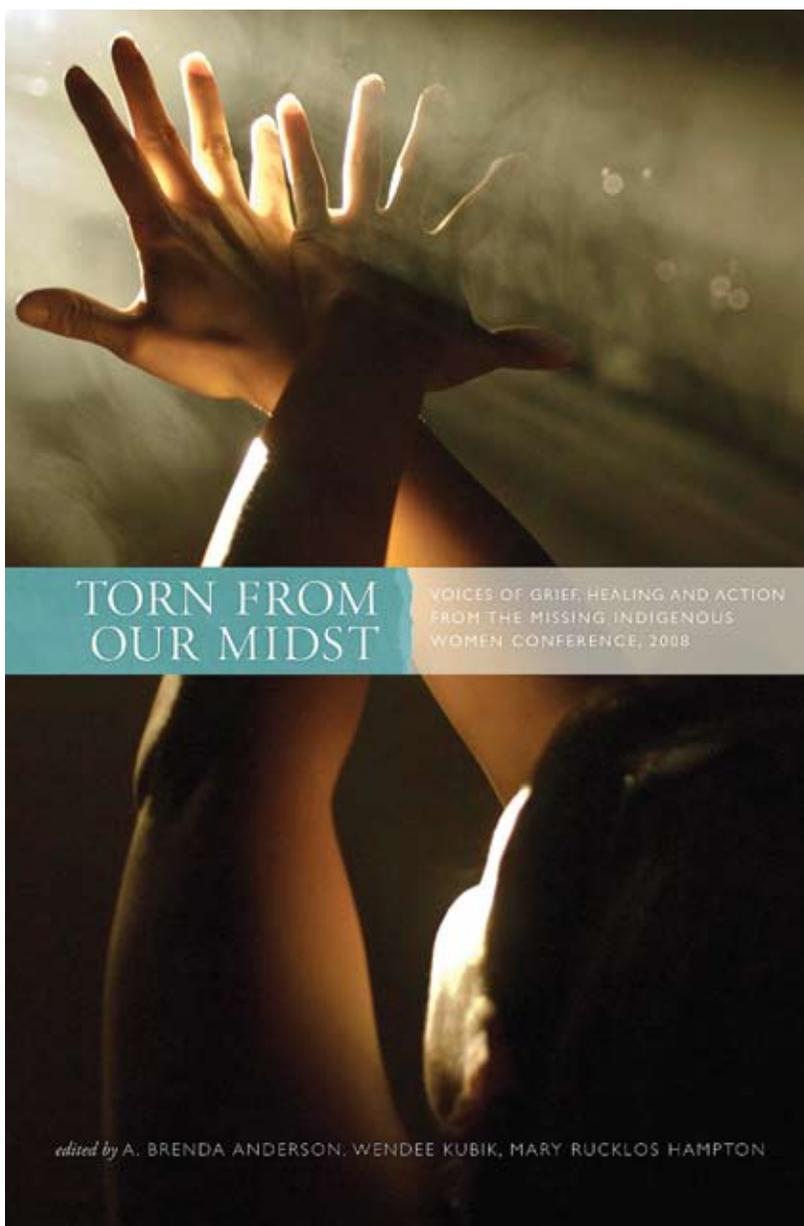


*edited by A. Brenda Anderson, Wendee Kubik, and Mary Rucklos Hampton*

**The anger, grief, courage, compassion, and hope we hear in these voices inspire and compel us—to remember those who are missing and to work for healing and justice.**

- Since 1980, more than 520 Aboriginal women have been reported missing or murdered in Canada.
- From 1993-2003, 370 women were murdered in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua, Mexico.
- Since 2001, more than 2,000 Guatemalan women and girls have been brutally murdered.

Responding to the profound tragedy inherent in these statistics, more than 300 women and men gathered in August 2008 at a conference entitled Missing Women: Decolonization, Third Wave Feminisms, and Indigenous People of Canada and Mexico. Here, personal stories and theoretical tools were brought together, as academics, activists, family members of missing and murdered women, police, media, policy-makers, justice workers, and members of faith communities offered their perspectives on the issue of racialized, sexualized violence.



Torn from Our Midst includes images and voices from the conference, together with additional reflections, both academic and personal, on the effects of violence and the possibilities for healing. The purpose of this volume is to raise awareness about missing and murdered women and to challenge communities to be courageous enough to look at the heart of this issue, to recognize the systems that allow such atrocities, and to seek justice and healing for all.

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**Binding:** Paperback

**www.cprcpress.ca/publications/Torn-from-Our-Midst**

## Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

**S**ummer is always a very busy time for RESOLVE. Students are available for summer hours of employment and new projects get started. This summer has been no exception. We began and completed an assessment of Elder Abuse services in Manitoba at the request of the **Manitoba Seniors and Healthy Living Secretariat** and were heavily involved in the **National Event** of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**, as discussed in our cover story. We continue to work on the Healing Journey project. Although the interviews have been completed there is a great deal of work to be done cleaning and working with the data we have collected. In addition, the **Prairie Action Foundation** has once again been very generous with their CARE Grants, and is continuing their support of our work on the Healing Journey Project in all three provinces.



**Dr. Joan Durrant**

We are pleased to have a number of announcements as we begin the new academic year. While Jane Ursel is on sabbatical, RESOLVE is very privileged to have **Dr. Joan Durrant** as the Acting Director.

Joan Durrant is a Child-Clinical Psychologist and Professor of Family Social Sciences at the University of Manitoba, where she teaches courses on violence against children, and risk and resilience in development. Her research focuses on the role of public policy in upholding children's right to protection – in particular, the role of law, human rights frameworks and public education. She was the principal researcher and co-author of the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth*; a member of the Research Advisory Committee of the United Nations Secretary-

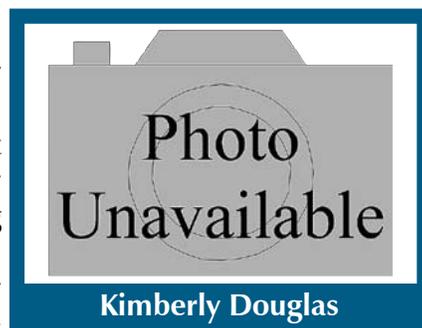
General's Study on Violence against Children; a member of the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Corporal Punishment; and a co-editor of *Eliminating Corporal Punishment: The Way Forward to Constructive Discipline* (UNESCO). She has been active in public education on child maltreatment prevention in Canada and internationally, and has written books for parents and teachers on non-violent discipline. She is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development*.

We are also pleased to announce our two **Carolynne Biovin Bursary** award recipients for 2010. Our first recipient is **Sheri Bell**, a third year honours student in Sociology. Sheri works at RESOLVE and took the lead in interviewing for the Elder Abuse project this summer and played a key role in the analysis and write up of the report. Her interest in this field has grown out of her summer work with RESOLVE and the Centre on Aging. Sheri will be doing her Honour's Thesis on Seniors' sense of independence and isolation, analyzing some innovative photo novella data.



**Sheri Bell**

Our second award recipient, **Kimberly Douglas**, is a third year Arts student at the University interested in pursuing a career in nursing. She is particularly interested in the



**Kimberly Douglas**

of nurses as first line responders to victims of domestic violence. Health care professionals are often the first to hear the story or see the consequences of interpersonal violence. Therefore, it is very good news that people like Kimberly, with a specific interest in domestic violence, are entering the health professions. We wish both Kimberly and Sheri best wishes in their promising careers. ❀

## Saskatchewan Update: Why a Healing Room at Conferences?



by Mary Hampton and Elder Betty McKenna

**W**hen the RESOLVE Research Day was hosted by Saskatchewan in 2009, we resolved to offer a Healing Room hosted by **Elder Betty McKenna**. This brief update provides our rationale for providing such a room for participants and presenters. Note that this article is written by Dr. Hampton from the perspective of a non-Aboriginal psychologist. I have learned much about healing from my own practice as a psychologist but more profoundly, from Aboriginal healers who have crossed my path and given teachings from a traditional Aboriginal perspective.

The idea for providing this space at the conference came from the successful provision of a Healing Room at the *Missing Women* conference ([www.missingwomenregina.com](http://www.missingwomenregina.com)). At the RESOLVE Research Day in 2009, we invited participants from the *Healing Journey* study and felt the need to provide opportunities for healing during the day. The definition of *healing* used for the purpose of this brief article is taken from my friend **Dr. Richard Katz's** work with Indigenous healers across the world and goes like this:

***Healing is the transitioning toward meaning, balance, wholeness and connectedness.***

This definition works for people who have been touched by intimate partner violence, not only participants but academics and service providers as well. Those of us who enter this field of research often have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) personally, or witnessed those who we love experience IPV, so we believed that providing a healing room would benefit presenters and all those who attend such a conference.

Because we often have a personal experience with the topic, research is not an "objective" experience. From a healing point of view, we may be triggered into a trauma response while attending Research Day. As Elder

McKenna states, humans have several bodies: physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. While listening to stories of IPV, any of these bodies may be in need of healing. While we expect that only our mental bodies are present at these academic conference, presenters and participants could experience an overwhelming experience of trauma in our physical, emotional, or spiritual bodies.

Where do we go to feel safe if we experience trauma in any of our bodies? Well, we offer a healing room, and the presence of our Elder who can assist with healing.



Healing Room at RESOLVE Saskatchewan Research Day 2009

At RESOLVE Saskatchewan Research Day we provided a safe "healing room" so that people who were unexpectedly triggered could go to feel safe and receive healing. In this room, Elder Betty set up a space that contained elements for healing and safety: colours of the four directions represented by cloth, i.e., blue, white, red, and yellow; the four natural elements (earth, wind, water, fire) present in candles, rocks, scents of roses, sage, cedar and willow.

The sacred space encouraged us to engage our spirits by entering into the body. Sound was engaged with the use of calming nature sounds; taste with herbal teas; and touch with a rocking chair and cozy blankets. **Chelsea Millman** assisted Elder Betty in many ways by making sage bundles for people who visited the room to take with them, and setting up the sacred space through prayer and ceremony.

Although this space was not used by many participants (most likely due to the location), we will continue to provide this space at conferences so that participants and presenters are aware the room is available, and will encourage the creation of a safe, healing space for all conferences. ❀

## Alberta Update



by Leslie M. Tutty

**R**ESOLVE Alberta recently completed a research report entitled *Persons with disabilities across the lifespan: Program scan and community stakeholder needs assessment*, written by **Leslie Tutty, Kellie Moorey, Sarah Anne LeDrew, Deborah Jesso, Lisa Ondejko** and **Choni Tenzin**. The project Research Advisory Team consisted of **Linda White**, former executive director of the *Alliance to End Violence*; **Karen Walroth**, past executive director of the Alliance to End Violence; and Kellie Moorey, the then *Persons with Disabilities Coordinator*. Project team members included **Eva Chan** (*Alliance to End Violence – Older Persons Initiative*), **Carol Fredrec** (*Multiple Sclerosis Society*), **Maggie MacKillop** (*HomeFront*), **Chad Goebel** (*Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre*) and **Debb Hurlock** (*United Way/Faculty of Social Work*). The project was funded by the **Prairieaction Foundation**.

The report presents a literature review on the incidence, prevalence and core features of abuse to children, adults and seniors with disabilities, including a comprehensive search of resources across various forms of violence and disabilities that could guide the development of an Alberta-made strategy to address disabilities and domestic and sexual assault. It also presents the result of in-depth qualitative interviews with 20 community representatives from both the disabilities and the violence fields.

The key stakeholders concur that persons with disabilities who experience abuse have a number of special needs that, in many ways, are not being met by the continuum of services in Calgary. The majority of the stakeholders agreed that persons with disabilities experience physical, attitudinal, language and communication barriers that are exacerbated by the increasing population in Calgary. Among the physical barriers were inaccessibility to transportation, buildings and services such as shelters. Social barriers include attitudes against persons with disabilities such as sexual myths and assumptions, which were communicated through popular culture, reinforcing their marginalized position. Lastly, poverty and isolation were also barriers to participating in services and community activities. Funding barriers were also mentioned in terms of agencies' ability to staff appropriately.

However, almost half of the stakeholders identified attempts by local community agencies to better address these issues including the accessibility of interpreters through **HomeFront** and shelters such as the **Kerby Rotary House**. A number of recommendations are provided, acknowledging that the Alliance to End Violence Action Committee on Disabilities and Abuse team must negotiate the priorities in a manner that fits with the Calgary community and resources. The team has already initiated activities that address several of the recommendations, such as the January 2010 conference entitled *Ending Abuse of Persons with Disabilities*, with guest speaker, **Dr. Dick Sobsey** from the University of Alberta, an internationally renowned researcher in the fields of disability and abuse. The report is available from [tutty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tutty@ucalgary.ca).



### Other RESOLVE Alberta News

The **RESOLVE Research Day** is being held in Calgary this year on Wednesday, November 17, at the Olympic Volunteer Centre near the University of Calgary. Our key-note speaker is **Anne Troy**, Assistant Professor of Nursing from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centre and will speak on *Teens NOT Gone Wild*. Anne, the originator of *Girls Not Gone Wild*, developed the peer-driven prevention program in response to the rampant sexual violence occurring during Mardi Gras and victimization myths perpetrated by media images.



Anne Troy

Over twenty-five additional research presentations will be offered. The registration fee is \$40 (students \$10), which includes lunch. We hope to entice many of you to come to hear top notch researchers on domestic violence and other abuse issues from the prairie provinces and beyond. Please e-mail **Carole Cillis** at [ccillis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ccillis@ucalgary.ca), or **Leslie Tutty** at [tutty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tutty@ucalgary.ca), for registration forms and additional information. ☘

*Partnership with the TRC* cont'd from page 1

Photo used with permission from Fred Cattroll and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

**Unity Riders Attend the Truth and Reconciliation Commission National Event in Winnipeg, MB**

275 private statements were gathered. Younger statement gatherers from both RESOLVE teams also participated in the Circle of Youth sharing circle, during which youth told stories related to the impact of residential schools on themselves and their families.

Following the national event, a debriefing session was held with the Manitoba team. Everyone was asked to reflect on the event and to describe how they felt after that experience. The overall consensus was that although the experience was at times overwhelming and at times difficult, it was also very humbling, very meaningful and, for some, a life changing experience. **Ken Letander** noted that:

*"I am thankful for this experience and very humbled. I will do anything I can to assist survivors through the process of telling their stories."*

Significant attention has been paid to ensuring the well-being of individuals who want to provide statements before, during, and after the statement gathering process. For both the TRC and RESOLVE, it is critical that individuals are treated with dignity and respect, provided with support and offered safe, culturally appropriate spaces in which to give their statements. Statement providers can share anything about their residential experience that they wish to share and they can provide statements in written, audio or video recorded formats. The TRC has provided high quality audio and video recording systems that allow for the production of a CD or DVD of statements that can be given to the statement provider immediately following the statement. Statement providers are welcome to have a personal support present during the statement and Health Canada support workers are also present during each statement as a source of support. Through the Health Canada support services, statement providers

can choose between traditional cultural supports or general counsellors. There is also a national crisis line that is available 24 hours a day, seven days per week, should a statement provider need support; ongoing support can also be applied for. All of these support resources are also available to statement gatherers.

In addition to the working at the national event, a few of the RESOLVE statement gatherers have travelled to community events organized by the TRC outside of Winnipeg to gather statements. This fall, we will be working as smaller teams to recruit individuals who might be interested in providing statements. We have three academic facilitators, including **Joan Durrant**, Acting Director of RESOLVE in Jane Ursel's absence; **Cheryl Fraehlich**, from RESOLVE Manitoba; and **Jane Murray** from the University of Winnipeg. Each academic facilitator will work with four statement gatherers to provide guidance, supervision and support. Information about the project will be presented at community agencies within Winnipeg and, through these presentations and written information about the project left at the agencies for distribution, individuals interested in providing a statement can learn about the statement gathering project and call for information or to schedule a meeting.

RESOLVE is truly honoured to part of the statement gathering process. The stories that are shared will form an important part of Canada's historical record of the Indian Residential School system. Allowing these stories and exposing the truth about the residential schools can begin the healing process and help future generations. ❧



Photo used with permission from Fred Cattroll and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

**Drummers Attend the Truth and Reconciliation Commission National Event in Winnipeg, MB**

Background photo used with permission from Fred Cattroll and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



**October 15, 2010 - Prairie Women`s Health Centre of Excellence First Annual General Meeting**, hosted by Prairie Women`s Health Centre of Excellence. The event will be held in the Winnipeg, Manitoba, at the Greenwood Inn Hotel, 1715 Wellington Avenue. Lunch – 11:45 a.m.; Annual General Meeting – 12 p.m.; and the panel presentation on current work, followed by Q & A is at 12:35 p.m. Tickets are \$20. RSVP to [p.chalmers@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:p.chalmers@uwinnipeg.ca) or phone (204) 982-6630.

**Tuesday Evenings, October 26 to December 14, 2010 - Healing from Abuse Group: 8 sessions, 6:30–9PM**, presented by the Fort Garry Women`s Resource Centre in Winnipeg, MB. This is a group for women who are coping with the impact of partner and/or childhood abuse. Topics explored will be recognizing and defining abuse, ways of coping, naming the losses associated with abuse, dealing with difficult emotions, building self esteem, and learning to be assertive. For more information, or to register, please call (204) 477-1123 by **October 15, 2010**. Limited space. In-person intake with facilitator is required.

**November 3, 4 & 5, 2010 - National Research Day 2010 - Engaging Our Communities: Working Together to End Intimate Partner Violence**, hosted by the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre, University of New Brunswick. The event will be held at the UNB, Wu Conference Centre, 6 Duffie Drive, Fredericton, NB. For session information, refer to [www.unb.ca/fredericton/arts/centres/mmfc/news/index.html](http://www.unb.ca/fredericton/arts/centres/mmfc/news/index.html). For additional information, please e-mail [fvrc@unb.ca](mailto:fvrc@unb.ca), or (506) 453-3595.

**November 17, 2010 - RESOLVE Research Day**, hosted by RESOLVE Alberta. The event will be held at the Olympic Volunteer Centre, University of Calgary, in Calgary, Alberta. Key-note speaker is **Anne Troy**, Assistant Professor of Nursing from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centre. Anne is the originator of **Girls Not Gone Wild**, developed the peer driven prevention program in response to the rampant sexual violence occurring during Mardi Gras and victimization myths perpetrated by media images. Over twenty additional research presentations will be offered. Registration is \$40, and includes lunch. For registration forms and additional information, please e-mail Carole Cillis at [ccillis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ccillis@ucalgary.ca), or Dr. Leslie Tutty at [tutty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tutty@ucalgary.ca).

**November 17–19, 2010 - Current Issues in Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Conference**, hosted by the Ontario Network of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence (ONSA/DV) Treatment Centres & The Suspected Child Abuse & Neglect (SCAN) Program (SickKids). The event will be held at the University of Toronto Conference Centre, 89 Chestnut Street, Toronto, Ontario. Designed for an interdisciplinary audience, this conference will provide up-to-date information on current issues in sexual assault, domestic violence and child maltreatment. Lectures and workshops will promote interaction with the opportunity to advance knowledge and skills. For more information, please e-mail Brenda Rau, Conference Coordinator at [info.scan@sickkids.ca](mailto:info.scan@sickkids.ca).



RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



*We're finding solutions to protect women and children from violence and abuse!*

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Web site: [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca)

## *2010 Prairieaction Foundation CARE Grant Recipients*



Prairieaction Foundation would like to congratulate the following recipients of our **2010 CARE Grants**. This program furthers our goal to support community-based research into solutions to violence and abuse by funding qualifying charitable organizations for research projects that identify potential strategies, models and methods to ultimately eliminate these issues.

**Avenue Community Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity Inc.** (Saskatoon, SK): *Woman to Woman Abuse Project* \$14,800

**Changing Together– a Centre for Immigrant Women** (Edmonton, AB): *Baseline Study of Human Trafficking in Alberta* \$15,000

**Family Service Saskatoon** (Saskatoon, SK): *Saskatoon Community Partners for Violence Free Families—Whole Family Programming Project* \$13,684

**Ikwe-Widdjiitwin** (Winnipeg, MB): *Women Helping One Another: Evaluation of Ikwe-Widdjiitwin Inc.* \$6,992

**Nova House** (Selkirk, MB): *Data Management and Analysis for the Healing Journey* \$7,525

**Peace River Regional Women's Shelter Society:** *Data Management and Analysis for the Healing Journey Project in Alberta* \$7,500

**Regina Transitions Women's Society:** *Data Management and Analysis for the Healing Journey* \$7,500

**YWCA Calgary:** *Service Needs of Women Mandated to Domestic Violence Counselling by Child and Family Services* \$12,000

For more information on these projects, please visit the Foundation website at [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca). ☞

### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

~ Dr. Joan Durrant ~  
*Acting Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *Strengthening Families Project: Couples Treatment for Domestic Violence and Substance Use*



*by Kathleen Bell, Calgary Counselling Centre*



**T**he launch of a brand new pilot program this Fall by the Calgary Counselling Centre (CCC), through the Wilson Centre for Domestic Abuse Studies, will help address the complex relationship between substance use and intimate partner violence. The ***Strengthening Families Program: Couples Treatment for Domestic Violence and Substance Use*** is supported by the **Alberta Government Safe Communities Innovation Fund**. The program will be open to the public in early 2011.

The Strengthening Families Program provides 12 treatment sessions to married or cohabitating couples who have had at least one incident of intimate partner violence, and where at least one partner has a substance use problem. The program is modelled on work initiated by the late **Dr. William Fals-Stewart** and **Dr. Keith Klostermann**, and offers treatment to both partners to start and maintain abstinence for the substance user, while teaching the other partner coping skills in order to increase safety.

*"Working with both violence and substance abuse is a very challenging problem,"* says **Robbie Babins-Wagner**, CEO, Calgary Counselling Centre. *"There is promising research showing the provision of couples treatment can simultaneously treat both the domestic*

*violence and substance use. We are really optimistic that we are going to make a difference."*

In June 2010, CCC was honoured to receive \$750,000 from the Alberta Government Safe Communities Innovation Fund to develop and support the Strengthening Families Program. Minister of Justice and Attorney General, the **Honourable Alison Redford**, and Child and Youth Services Minister, the **Honourable Yvonne Fritz**, announced the funding at the second annual Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Conference.

At the announcement ceremony, Ms. Redford commented that *"We need to all work together - partnerships are key to ending domestic violence."*

Strengthening Families is in preparation for its launch; Centre staff are participating in extensive training; and the Centre is making necessary adjustments before clients from select referral sources enter the program. CCC has engaged **Dr. Leslie Tutty** of Resolve Alberta as the external evaluator for the program. Once the first couples have completed the Strengthening

**Strengthening Families... cont'd on Page 6**

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## *Learning at the Parent's Knee: Physical Punishment of Children and Violence in Later Life*



*by Joan E. Durrant*

**S**ince the arrival of Europeans, the belief that children learn through pain and suffering has become entrenched in Canadian culture. This belief is captured in Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada which states that:

*Every schoolteacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil or child, as the case may, who is under his care, if the force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances.*

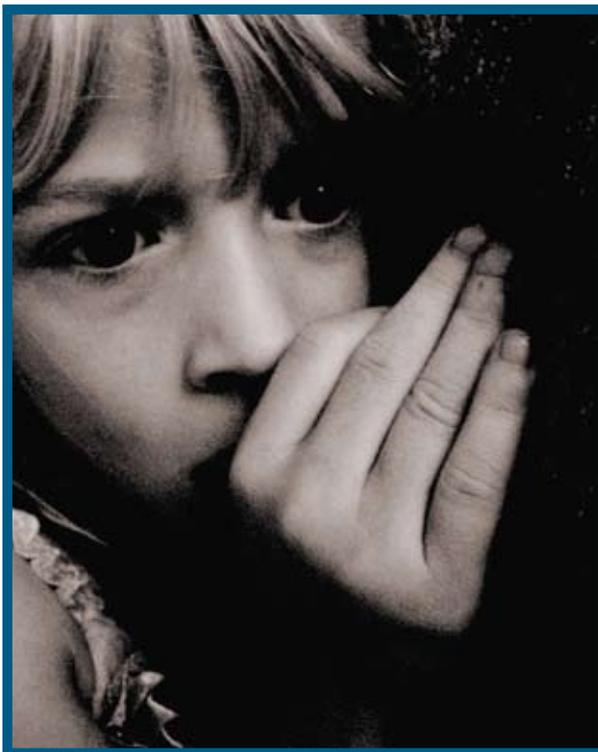
This defence was part of English common law for centuries. This thinking applied not only to children but to all "subordinates," including wives.

*The husband might give his wife moderate correction. For, as he is to answer for her misbehaviour, the law thought it reasonable to entrust him with this power in the same moderation that a man is allowed to correct his apprentice or his children.*

Over time the justifications for physical punishment of wives, ships' crews, and prisoners vanished from our laws as our society transformed to uphold and protect human rights. But today children remain outside of those protections.

The perpetuation of the belief that children learn through painful punishment has important implications for those who work to end violence in families. An ever-growing body of research demonstrates that children who are physically punished are more likely to aggress against their peers, siblings and parents; youth who have been physically punished are more likely to commit dating violence; adults who were physically punished as children are more likely to be violent towards their

intimate partners and their own children. Every study - and there are now more than 30 - of the relationship between physical punishment and aggression has found it to be a positive one. This should not be surprising; for 40 years we have known that children who observe aggressive models are more likely to behave aggressively themselves. Every time children see conflict resolved with aggression, they lose an opportunity to learn constructive alternatives.



In an ever-growing number of countries, violence prevention initiatives include efforts to end physical punishment through two means:

- 1) intensive public education about its risks and harms, and
- 2) explicit prohibitions of its use.

The former is aimed at changing parents' understanding of the long-term impact of physical punishment; the latter is aimed at affirming public education messages and upholding children's rights to protection.

Twenty-nine countries have now prohibited physical punishment, in almost all regions of the world. Canada has not yet joined that

list, despite a broad consensus among professionals that our law should be changed. The Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth, which calls for universal public education and law reform, has been endorsed by 400 professional organizations across Canada from all sectors, including, health, education, labour, business, and family services. It is time for Canada to join the list of countries committed to abolishing physical punishment of children—a pivotal issue in the struggle to end family violence. For more information on the Joint Statement, refer to [www.cheo.on.ca/en/physicalpunishment](http://www.cheo.on.ca/en/physicalpunishment). ☘

## *Manitoba Update: Looking Deeper – A Guide to Programming for Men Who Behave Abusively*



*by Jocelyn Proulx*

**I**n 2007, RESOLVE Manitoba and a number of agencies that provide services to children who have witnessed violence and abuse produced *Children First: A Guide for Service Providers Working with Children Exposed to Family Violence*. The Evolve Program at **Klinic Community Health Centre** also works with men who have behaved abusively in their relationships and therefore, felt that a guide to programming for men would be beneficial. A committee, composed of agencies and individuals who work with men who have used violence and RESOLVE Manitoba researchers, was organized to develop this programming guide. Currently in its final revision, this guide, tentatively titled *Looking Deeper: A Guide to Programming for Men Who Behave Abusively*, will be available on the Klinic website and through RESOLVE Manitoba in 2011.

The guide covers issues from program conceptualization to implementation. Foundational issues such as the nature, effects, and myths of violent behaviour, cultural influences on violent behaviour, and the process of changing violent behaviour are presented. Service provider qualities and characteristics that facilitate work with men who behave abusively are then outlined. A number of theoretical approaches to intervention with men are introduced and their applications are discussed. Following these underlying elements of intervention, are the more pragmatic concerns such as guidelines for intake and assessment, preparation for programming, methods of intervention (i.e. individual and group interventions; short and long term programming, and the use of peer mentors), and preparation for the end of programming. A section on program evaluation briefly describes different types of evaluations and suggestions for enhancing outcome evaluations. Finally, appendices and an extensive reference section provide additional resources and information for guide users.



Contrary to the tendency to identify or define men by their abusive behaviour, this guide promotes a multidimensional perspective of men who have behaved abusively. Complexity, compassion, and a contextual approach are the core perspectives presented and promoted by the document. Family violence is a complex issue and therefore acknowledging this complexity broadens understanding and ensures that programming approaches remain current and relevant. It also serves to increase compassion, which nurtures and supports respect for individuals as whole persons, rather than focusing on limited aspects of their experience or being. This view tends to facilitate an optimistic expectation of change and creates a welcoming environment for men to take responsibility for their behaviour and thus become agents of change in their lives. Individuals exist within family, community, culture, and other social systems. Addressing the influence of these systems on men's behaviour and their efforts to develop healthier relationships provides a more contextualized and thus comprehensive approach to both intervention and prevention programs.

This document can be used as a guideline for developing new programs and modifying existing ones. Also, it may assist workers in supporting and meeting the needs of men who behave abusively in their relationships, in part by encouraging them to reflect on their current practices and by increase their sensitivity to particular issues that may arise in their practice. The guide may further be used to promote awareness surrounding issues of men's programming in a

variety of settings within the community. Rather than presenting recommendations or standards of practice, as is often the case with standards manuals, this guide raises awareness of programming considerations by presenting a number of approach and method options. The intent is for service providers to be able to select the options most appropriate to their needs and circumstances. ✂

*RESOLVE Saskatchewan Team Members Present Research at RESOLVE Alberta Research Day*

by *Whitney D. Taylor and Danaka R. Safinuk*

**I**n November 2010, five University of Regina students received the opportunity to share feminist research from the **Healing Journey Project** (SSHRC/CURA, PAF, RESOLVE; P.I. Dr. Jane Ursel) at the RESOLVE Research Day in Calgary, Alberta. This Saskatchewan update highlights the students' research. However, it should be noted that faculty and community members supported and co-authored their projects.

**Danaka Safinuk**, an M.A. student in Clinical Psychology, **Whitney Taylor**, a RESOLVE research assistant, and **Meghan Woods**, a Ph.D. candidate in Clinical Psychology, presented *Bad Memories in the Bedroom: The Effects of Cued Recall on Sexuality in Intimate Partner Violence Survivors*. Any form of IPV may negatively impact victims' sexual desire, sexual comfort, and perceptions of physical and sexual health. The authors examined the effects of non-sexual violence (specifically, being locked in the bedroom) on women's

experiences of intimacy and sexuality. Memory theories were used by the students to propose that if a woman has been locked in her bedroom as a form of abuse, the bedroom could subsequently cue traumatic memories and interfere with her experiences of intimacy and sexuality. For this reason, the students wondered if women who have been locked in the bedroom would demonstrate a response pattern to sexuality questions similar to that of women who have been coerced into sexual acts.

Results demonstrate that women who have been locked in the bedroom have patterns of discomfort with sexual relations similar to that of women who have been raped. Further, women who have been locked in the bedroom but never raped demonstrate more discomfort with their sexual relations than IPV survivors who have not experienced a bedroom lock-in or rape. Retrieval cues in the bedroom may help to explain this difference in experience. The results from this study provide a better

understanding of how IPV shapes women's experiences of sexuality and how specific acts of violence have far-reaching effects on other areas of their lives. Further, the results provide insight into the category of Severe-Combined Abuse (i.e., physical, sexual, and emotional abuse), of which "locked me in the bedroom" is an item. The interplay of different types of abuse may be more harmful than physical or sexual abuse alone. Further research is required to explore the relationship between memory and sexuality and the combination of abuse types that is most harmful to victims.

**Kimberley Zorn**, a RESOLVE research assistant, used an Exploratory Data Analysis framework to examine eating patterns reported by a sample of adult women who had experienced physical IPV. Over half (57.1%) of participants in the Saskatchewan sample of Healing Journey participants reported changes in their eating habits over the last twelve

months, and 43.4% reported experiencing a concerning change in weight. Psychological or emotional reasons for changes in eating patterns were most frequently reported. Findings suggest that future research should focus on the relationship between physical forms of IPV and disordered eating.

**Holly McKenzie**, a graduate student in Multidisciplinary Studies, and Danaka Safinuk presented a Discourse Analysis with **Dr. Darlene Juschka** that explored Aboriginality, age, and current societal discourses as factors for different experiences of sexuality. The study revealed themes of silence, power, masculinity, and femininity. These results form a better understanding of how women internalize or resist societal discourses to shape their sexuality. Findings suggest that future research should focus on success stories of women who survive violence with a positive sexuality, revealing factors for resiliency and hope. ❧



*Whitney Taylor (left) and Danaka Safinuk*

## Alberta Update



by Leslie M. Tutty

**T**he **RESOLVE Research Day 2010** conference took place on November 17, at the Olympic Volunteer Centre at the University of Calgary and, according to the feedback we received, was a success! Approximately 100 registrants attended.

Our key-note speaker was **Anne Troy**, Assistant Professor of Nursing from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centre and spoke on *Teens NOT Gone Wild*. Anne, the originator of Girls Not Gone Wild, developed the peer-driven prevention program in response to the rampant sexual violence that occurred during Mardi Gras, and the victimization myths perpetrated by media images. Anne was also in town to collaborate with **Gaye Warthe**, **Cathy Carter-Snell**, **Pat Kostouros**, all from Mt. Royal University, and **Leslie Tutty** from the University of Calgary, to develop a pilot healthy relationships program for secondary education students. Modelled after the successful *Making Waves Program* in New Brunswick for high school students, the peer-led program fills a gap in dating violence and sexual assault prevention by focusing on the group of young men and women most at risk for such abuse.

The RESOLVE Research Day included twenty-five presentations from academics and community representatives across Canada, who spoke about their latest results on programs, policies and best practices to address intimate partner violence and child abuse from justice, mental health, and counselling perspectives. The presentation topics were truly comprehensive, ranging from the efficacy of approaches to perpetrators of woman abuse, critical issues for abused women and children, diversity issues with respect to Aboriginal and Black Canadian women, and different models of school-based healthy relationship programs.

Just a few of the innovative presentation titles included *Bad Memories in the Bedroom: The Effects of Cued Recall on Sexuality in Intimate Partner Violence Survivors*; *Structural Violence: Incarcerated Women's Voices on How Did We Get Here and How Do We Stay Out?*; *Jumping*

*Hurdles: Barriers to Violence Research with Youth*; *Experiences of abuse, harassment and strangulation in Saskatchewan survivors of intimate partner violence*; and *Manifestations of Sex and Gender: Using Survey Data to Understand the Gendered Experience of Violence*.

Thanks to everyone involved! ☘



Anne Troy delivering keynote address



Pictured left to right: Teri Posyniak, Sharon Butala, Margaret Newall

*Strengthening Families* cont'd from Page 1

Robbie Babins-Wagner

Families Program, it will open to the public.

In 2011, **Dr. Keith Klostermann**, a licensed mental health counsellor who specializes in individual and couples therapy, will offer a workshop for domestic violence practitioners called **Behavioural Couples Treatment for Domestic Violence and Substance Use**. The workshop will outline what we are working toward.

*"The Strengthening Families Program will allow us to gather essential information about dual issues, like substance abuse and domestic violence," says **Christine Berry**, Director of Family Violence Prevention Programs, Calgary Counselling Centre. "It offers the opportunity to understand how we can better intervene when dealing with dual issues. Social costs like loss of jobs, interruptions at work and police intervention caused by domestic violence and substance abuse will decrease. More importantly, we will have families who are healthy, feeling safe and connected in our community."*

The Safe Communities Initiative is a partnership of nine government ministries that work closely with the police, community groups, municipalities, businesses and social agencies. Their goal is to find

meaningful and long-term solutions that address crime in communities, and to make communities safer and stronger. With the help of our partners, the Centre is taking all steps necessary to organize the program in order to have it launch with the highest level of success.

For more information about the Safe Communities Innovation Fund, visit the Government of Alberta website at [justice.alberta.ca/programs\\_services/safe/Pages/safe\\_communities\\_innovation\\_fund.aspx#projects](http://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/safe/Pages/safe_communities_innovation_fund.aspx#projects).

To add your name to our conference series list, please e-mail your name, address and telephone number to our communications department at [communications@calgarycounselling.com](mailto:communications@calgarycounselling.com). ☘



*Child and Youth Services Minister the Honourable Yvonne Fritz (left) and Minister of Justice, and Attorney General the Honourable Alison Redford announce funding from the Government of Alberta Safe Communities Innovation Fund to develop and support the Strengthening Families Program at the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Conference*

## WORKSHOPS AND RESOURCES



**March 10 - 11, 2011 - Essentials for Making Trauma Therapy Safer**, with Babette Rothschild MSW, LCSW,

presented by Professional Initiatives. Somatic Trauma Therapy is an integrated model for the understanding and treatment of trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Participants will learn neurophysical and psychophysical theory and principles, as well as tools for understanding, reducing, containing, and halting traumatic hyperarousal, including flashbacks. It is consistent with and a beneficial adjunct to any method of psychotherapy or specialized trauma therapy. Advance group rate of \$240 per person, for groups of 6 or more. Group registrations must be submitted together. For more information contact us at [pi\\_workshop@mts.net](mailto:pi_workshop@mts.net), or **204.254-7148**.

**Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre:** Providing *FREE* counseling, support, and resources for women and children. Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre is a non-profit organization committed to creating a community where women and children are safe, healthy, valued and empowered. Winnipeg locations are 1150A Waverley Street; Outreach at #104 - 3100 Pembina Highway; and Ellen Street Centre at #104 - 210 Ellen Street. For more information on our programs and services, contact us by phone at **(204) 477-1123**, e-mail at [info@fgwrc.ca](mailto:info@fgwrc.ca), or visit [www.fgwrc.ca](http://www.fgwrc.ca).

### *Help Us Make Friends, con't from Back Page*

Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Victims Services Branch increased its funding from \$81,000 to over \$500,000 per year to assist children and youth who have witnessed or experienced interpersonal violence or abuse, with the goal of preventing them from becoming victims or perpetrators of violence and abuse in the future—plus, the operations manual developed and used by the program's staff is going to be made available to Victims Services professionals across Canada.

We also helped Regina's Transition House conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of their services. The objective was to understand how the pieces of their *Bridges of Hope Outreach Program* worked to help women achieve their goals of empowerment and violence free lives. Research results are being used to improve best practices for the Bridges of Hope Outreach Program and have been shared with other outreach programs across Canada. Having a standardized and measurable program evaluation tool will enhance the sharing of the knowledge gained from research.

### **We Need Your Help**

If you have, or know of, a story about solutions—including changes in government policy, to violence and abuse resulting from RESOLVE's or CARE Grant Program funded research, then please call our executive director, **Martin Strauss** at **1-866-697-9707**. The more examples of the value of research, the easier it is for us to make the case for supporting the Foundation, the more money we can make available for research. ☚

National Day of Remembrance and Action on  
**Violence Against Women**  
*December 6*

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



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Web site: [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca)

## *Help Us to Make Friends and Influence People*



*Friendraising* is a first-step in the fundraising process.

Since its founding in 1998, *Prairieaction* Foundation has supported research that has led to solutions which break the cycle of family violence and abuse. Many of our past and future *friends* are unaware of the impact of research done by RESOLVE and community-based organizations. Receptions in Calgary, Regina, and Winnipeg have been held to reconnect with our past supporters and to create relations with potential new friends. One such reception was held on Wednesday, November 4. His Honour, the **Honourable Dr. John Barnhart**, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, hosted a reception at Government House in Regina, where over 100 guests had an opportunity to learn more about our past successes and future plans.

Dr. Barnhart commented, "I applaud *Prairieaction* for their mission to connect researchers and the community. When I was teaching at the University of Saskatchewan, and as the University Secretary, I saw how crucial it is to make those connections between academics and people working in the field. Research usually begins with a problem, which leads to questions which, hopefully, lead to answers and, ultimately, leads to solutions. Real life data and service delivery must be involved for research to yield results."

**Mary Rose McGuire**, Foundation Chair, provided several examples of the impact of RESOLVE's research, including one where RESOLVE Alberta completed an evaluation of *Saskatchewan's Programs for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence*. As a result of this study, the...



Mary Rose McGuire (left) and Dr. Barnhart

### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

~ Dr. Joan Durrant ~  
*Acting Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *Sleep Studies in Saskatchewan: Exploring the Effect of Intimate Partner Violence on Victims' Sleep*



*by Meghan Woods and Mary Hampton*

**A**nalysis of Saskatchewan data collected for the **Healing Journey** project suggest that victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) experience greater sleep disruption than women in the general population. This is consistent with a number of studies conducted in North America.

Lowe, Humphreys, and Williams (2007), qualitatively examined sleep in 16 female victims of IPV. Their participants reported that sleeping when their spouse was at home placed them at increased risk of physical and sexual attack. Despite known psychological and physical consequences of sleep disruption, many women chose to stay awake in order to avoid attack. Women also reported that in order to increase protection, they chose to sleep in different places in the home rather than sharing a bed with their abusive partner. Moreover, tension and vigilance prevented victims from sleeping or staying asleep. Victims also reported that because their children were not sleeping due to the violence, the victim's sleep was also disrupted.



fall asleep (APA, 2000). Pain has also been shown to disrupt sleep (Moorcroft, 2005), and women who have experienced IPV may be at higher risk to experience disrupted sleep from pain due to IPV-related injuries.

Consequences of sleep problems can be severe. Research has found that people experiencing sleep difficulties are at increased risk of developing psychological difficulties such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation (Colten & Altevogt, 2006; Harvey 2001). Sufferers of sleep deprivation are likely to experience physical difficulties, including increased pain (Lavigne et al., 2001); and experiencing sleep problems has also been linked to impaired driving and work performance (Moorcroft, 2005).

The Healing Journey team in Saskatchewan has begun to explore the relationship between sleep and IPV. **Meghan Woods** examined this relationship in her M.A. thesis. This research has two purposes: to develop a measure of IPV related sleep disruption and to explore whether sleep disruption

*Sleep Studies, cont'd on page 6*

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## Manitoba's Strategies in the Prevention of Child Abuse



by Jennifer Berry of New Directions for Children, Youth, Adults and Families

**I**n the last issue I wrote about the serious problem of child sexual exploitation that exists in Manitoba. While Manitoba is not unique in experiencing the tragedy of child sexual abuse, it has developed some unique strategies to address this problem. This article will focus on Manitoba's strategies in the hope of developing a dialogue among colleagues in the Western provinces on the prevention of child sexual abuse.

In 2002, the **Manitoba Strategy Responding to Children and Youth at Risk of Sexual Exploitation** was launched. A multijurisdiction committee, composed of representatives from government departments and community agencies, was mandated to implement this strategy. To date, the committee has been instrumental in the implementation of a number of initiatives, including specialized residential and nonresidential services for children at risk; specialized foster home placements; a training program for service providers working with sexually exploited children; and a province wide public awareness campaign.

Despite these important initiatives we still face many challenges. In 2006, a young girl in Winnipeg - Tracia, who was exploited in the sex trade, killed herself in despair. Mobilized by this tragedy, province wide consultations were held and in 2008, the government launched the second phase of the provincial strategy and identified as **Tracia's Trust**. The \$2.4 million initiative responded to community direction from the consultations.

Tracia's Trust focuses on offender accountability and deterrence. This initiative is spearheaded by a multidisciplinary committee that includes a new specialized *Sexual Exploitation Prosecution Coordinator* and the *Missing Persons* and *Vice Units* with the Winnipeg Police Service. In pursuit of offender

accountability, police and prosecutors will use existing Child Protection Legislation, such as "Failure to report a child in need of protection" (Section 18); "Causing a child to be in need of protection" (section 17); "Interfering with a child in care" (Section 52) and "Sale of a child" (section 84).

The Manitoba Strategy was instrumental in the Child and Family Services (CFS) Act being amended to increase the penalties. This amendment sends a clear message to offenders and the general public that the sexual exploitation of children and youth is a serious crime—a crime that will no longer be tolerated. This legislation under the CFS Act carries the highest penalties in Canada. A person found guilty of such an offence may be fined up to \$50,000, incarcerated for up to 24 months, or both. The Manitoba CFS Act penalties are to be considered as an option when criminal charges under the Criminal Code of Canada are not an option.

In addition, Manitoba is the second province in Canada to legislate mandatory reporting of child pornography. This new bill will come into effect in early 2009, and will require all Manitobans to report suspected child pornography to the appropriate authorities.

The message for all Manitobans is that we are all responsible for all children in our community to ensure they are safe, healthy and can grow up without fear of sexual exploitation. ☘



### Tracia's Trust

To view the initiatives refer to the online link at [news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=&item=4916](http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=&item=4916)

## RESOLVE & PAF: A Productive Partnership



by Jane Ursel

**R**ESOLVE has greatly benefited from the support of The Prairieaction Foundation (PAF) in a variety of ways, including support for our Research Days, our publications, and our operation grant. The RESOLVE offices also benefit from the **CARE Grants** provided by PAF. We apply for these grants with community partners to assist in a wide range of research of interest to the community. I would like to highlight the activities of Manitoba researchers made possible by Care Grants to agencies in our province.

### Winnipeg Children's

#### Access Assistance Centre,

in partnership with RESOLVE Manitoba, received a CARE grant this year to develop a program logic model and to conduct a pilot follow-up study with parents who have used their services over the years. This service provides safe, supervised visitation for children with their non-custodial parent in cases where divorced/separated parents have had a history

of domestic violence. This is a critical service in our community and this pilot study will be a first step in development of a large proposal for funding and evaluation. Through support of this initiative, PAF contributes to building programs where children can safely maintain contact with a non-custodial parent.

The **Wolseley Family Place**, in partnership with our office, received a CARE grant to evaluate the impact of their **New Realities Program** on men and to develop a program logic model of this innovative service. This program is designed to help families who face issues of family violence and substance abuse to work together to overcome their challenges. In supporting this grant, PAF is providing the agency with the ability to assess the extent to which their services, used primarily by women and their children, can have an important impact on fathers/partners as well.



**The Healing Journey:** We have reported on this five year longitudinal study in previous issues. While this study is primarily funded by a *Community University Research Alliance* (CURA) grant of the **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council**, all three RESOLVE offices have received funding from the CARE grants each year for the past four years. These grants have assisted us in reaching women in rural and northern areas of our provinces to ensure that women living in remote locations will still have an opportunity to

have their stories told. This year, all three Centres have received Care Grants to assist us in conducting the cost-benefit component of our project. This component is extremely important in order to provide policy makers with "hard data" on the substantial social costs of domestic violence and to make compelling arguments on the wisdom of investing in prevention programs. In Manitoba, we partnered with

**Nova House**, a shelter for abused women in Selkirk, in application for this grant.

The **Laurel Centre** partnered with our office to apply for a CARE grant to revise and reformat their client forms; to assist them in developing their own program evaluation system. RESOLVE is working with Laurel Centre staff to revise the forms and set up a data management system which will allow them to track changes in clients over time. We are also training staff on data in-put and processes for data analysis. The Laurel Centre provides a very valuable counseling service for women who have been sexually abused in childhood. Their increased capacity to record statistics on their service will permit them to better serve their clients and enhance their reports to funders. In supporting this grant, PAF is contributing directly to "research capacity building" in this important service in our community. ❀

## RESOLVE Saskatchewan Profiles Saskatchewan Researchers Stardale Women's Group



by Helen McPhaden and Mary Hampton

**S**askatchewan is home to many prolific anti-violence researchers. In this and upcoming RESOLVE newsletters, we will profile Saskatchewan researchers who have conducted research that sheds light on the topic of violence in our communities. One researcher who conducts community-based participatory action research is **Helen McPhaden**, Executive Director of Stardale Women's Group. The **Stardale Women's Group** is a community-based organization that performs research, designs and develops programs, and advocates for Aboriginal females who live in poverty. To learn more about Stardale please refer to their website at [www.stardale.org](http://www.stardale.org). Recently, Helen completed a research project in collaboration with the Kainai First Nation (Blood) in Southern Alberta. This reserve is the largest in Canada.

Over the past few years, Stardale has delivered programs to girls in the community. Through consultations with community programs, it was found that there was an alarming increase in violence perpetrated by girls. One community decided a research project was warranted in order to understand the problem. The research project, entitled **Violence in the Lives of Girls in the Kainai First Nation**, was initiated by a First Nation in southern Alberta in collaboration with Stardale. The rationale for the community-based participatory approach used in this research was to combat a legacy of community mistrust of researchers and to reverse the under representation of Aboriginal voices from low-income backgrounds in literature. Initial funding secured in Fall 2006 allowed the assembly of a team. The research team was multi-disciplinary, and included members from all three prairie provinces. As well, a literature review was completed by **Leslie Roach**, attorney at Law, who works with the United Nations in West Africa. The project was completed in June 2008. To read the full report, please access RESOLVE Saskatchewan website.

Additionally, Stardale completed a project that addressed violence and safety with 13 female Aboriginal inmates at a prairie young offender's

centre. These young women explained their life experiences through art. Findings are disseminated in a unique format—a comic book was created titled **Life As you Don't Know It**. The comic book is being used as a resource and intervention tool with a variety of applications for practitioners and policy makers. Seven recommendations were generated for practitioners working with female youth:

1. *Parenting*: Support for the parent out there; reach the parents to come.
2. *Stability*: Good Foster homes – permanent. No uprooting every week, day, month. Consistent support – mentor that guides.
3. *Reducing*: Sexual and physical abuse. Eliminate abuse.
4. *Recognizing*: That we have dreams. We are not just bad kids. We love.
5. *Build*: Our self-esteem, our confidence.
6. *Education*: Relevant. More social interaction.

To obtain your copy of the comic book, please contact [stardale@gmail.com](mailto:stardale@gmail.com). ☘



Helen McPhaden

### RESOLVE RESEARCH DAY 2009

#### HEALING FROM VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Hosted by RESOLVE Saskatchewan

November 19-20, 2009

REGINA INN HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE  
REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

#### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Submission deadline is June 30, 2009

RESOLVE Saskatchewan is now accepting presentation proposals for the upcoming Research Day in Regina, Saskatchewan, November 19-20, 2009.

Please direct any questions to **Mary Hampton** at [mary.hampton@uregina.ca](mailto:mary.hampton@uregina.ca) or (306) 585-4826.

## Alberta Update



by Leslie M. Tutty

In December, one of the first reports with respect to the Alberta portion of the tri-provincial *Healing Journey* was submitted to the **Alberta Centre on Children, Family and Community Research**, which funded a component entitled *A longitudinal study of mothers affected by intimate partner violence: Perceptions of their children's well-being and family-related service utilization*.

We completed the recruitment of 231 Alberta women in April, 2007, with 92.6% or 214 women being mothers. A little more than half of the mothers were Caucasian, almost one-third were Aboriginal or Métis (32%) and a smaller group were from other visible minority backgrounds (11%). The women were an average age of 38 years of age with an average yearly total family income of \$24,318 (range of 0 to \$235,000). The majority of the mothers were born in Canada (83%), with about one-sixth of the women originally from other countries.

The report highlighted numerous strategies that the mothers used to protect their children from being exposed to, or suffering, the consequences of the abuse. Protection strategies included such informal mothering strategies as the introduction of activities to help the children feel good about themselves; relationship strategies with the partner, such as ending the relationship; and contacting formal agencies such as the police, child welfare or shelters. Across these categories, the women saw the most effective strategies as separating/leaving the relationship; being affectionate with the children; parenting them alone; obtaining support from women's shelters; and avoiding potentially violence situations.

The women also described their partner's abusive tactics that target either the children or the mothers' sense of competency or her reputation as a competent

mother. The most common examples of such tactics are the abusive partners telling others that she is a bad mother, trying to control the way that she raises the children and trying to control the children. Further analysis of the mother's data will be conducted in the near future.

On January 16, 2009, the **Alberta Healing Journey** research team met to develop priorities based on analysis of the extremely rich project information. Four areas of immediate interest are:



Healing Journey Alberta Team (l-r): Duyen Nguyen, Lorrie Radtke, Caroline-McDonald-Harker, Dr. Leslie Tutty, Brenda Brochu, Erin Gibbs Van Brunshot, Billie Thurston and Carolyn Goard. Missing from picture: Kendra Nixon, Jan Reimer, Kate Woodman

- (1) Aboriginal women;
- (2) Mothering and protective strategies;
- (3) Legal issues, including custody and access; and
- (4) Comparing women who have used services with those who have not.



### Other RESOLVE Alberta Updates

In the last newsletter we highlighted the nomination of the article *Do good intentions beget good policy? A review of child protection policies to address intimate partner violence*, written by **Kendra Nixon**, now at the University of Manitoba, University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work academics **Leslie Tutty** and **Christine Walsh** and former RESOLVE Alberta Research Associate, **Jill Weaver-Dunlop**, as a finalist in the *Herbert A. Raskin Child Welfare Pro Humanitate Article Awards* from the *North American Resource Centre for Child Welfare*. The article was one of four finalists chosen for the 2008 award. The awards are presented to authors who "exemplify the intellectual integrity and moral courage required to transcend political and social barriers to champion best practice in the field of child welfare." The authors will travel to San Diego to receive the award at the *International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment* in San Diego. ☘

*“Sleep Studies”* cont'd from page 1

can be attributed to experiencing IPV when controlling for the effects of psychological disorders that are also related to sleep disruption. In development of this new measure of “sleep,” Meghan prepared nine IPV sleep disruption questions, developed from a thorough review of literature and extensive consultation with Healing Journey community and academic team members in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta. The final nine items included measures of sleep disruption due to partner’s controlling behaviour, partner’s angry outbursts, pain from injuries, nightmares, tension and vigilance, sleeping with the light on, and children not sleeping.

With permission from the Healing Journey project team, these sleep questions were included in the *Healing Journey Project Health* questionnaire. In this article, we report results of analysis from 184 participants in Saskatchewan. After conducting reliability analyses, three of the items were not included in the final measure, so findings are based on analysis of six-items regarding sleep disruption due to violence. (Funding for this tri-provincial study has been received from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and PAF.)

Reports of sleep problems in the Healing Journey sample of victims of IPV were compared to women in the general population. Scientific literature suggests between 13% and 57% of women in the general population report sleep problems (Soares, 2005; Williams, 2001). Female victims of IPV in our sample (n=184) reported significantly greater sleep disruption (32% - 78%) than women in the general population. These findings are consistent with Humphreys and colleagues’ findings (1999) that victims of IPV experience more sleep disruption than women in the general population.

With use of the six-item sleep measure, we explored the hypothesis that female victims of IPV experience sleep problems that are predicted by experiencing IPV when controlling for the effect of age, education level, having children, childhood abuse experiences, and psychological symptoms. Using hierarchical multiple regression analysis, we found that this hypothesis was supported.

In the **Saskatchewan Healing Journey** sample, IPV experiences statistically predicted sleep disruptions above and beyond age (i.e., older women have been found to experience more sleep disruption), having children present in the home, education level, childhood abuse experiences, and psychological symptoms. This unique finding has not been previously quantitatively explored and suggests that experiencing IPV causes sleep disruption in women survivors.

These research findings have important implications for intervention and future research directions. Results suggest that conventional medical care that may not query women about IPV experiences, may not be adequately assisting women. When victims of IPV experience sleep problems related to the abuse, these problems cannot be sufficiently treated using usual sleep treatments. Providing a victim with sedative medication may increase danger since sleep places her at increased risk of attack (Lowe, Humphreys, and Williams, 2007). Also, considering the known implications of

sleep problems for work performance, health, and psychological difficulties, victims’ sleep disruption can also place them at greater risk of problems that may decrease quality of life and cause them economic disadvantage (Colten & Altevogt, 2005; Pilcher & Huffcutt, 1996; Weaver & Clum, 1995).

Further analysis of our data will explore the

relationship between sleep disruption and health consequences by examination of health service use associated with IPV-related sleep disruption, as well as to examine the effects of sleep problems on cognition and attention for victims of IPV. A quantitative sleep measure of IPV requires further refinement, but these initial results suggest that such a measure would benefit researchers and practitioners. Meghan will continue to investigate the relationship between sleep and IPV for her Ph.D. thesis. ❧



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Celebrate International Women's Day with the Honourable Nancy Allan, Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Monday, March 9, 2009

11:45 AM - 1 PM

in the Rotunda at the  
Manitoba Legislative Building

This year's theme is:

***Together We Are Better: The Contributions of Immigrant Women in Manitoba***

International Women's Day is a time to honour the accomplishments of women and inspire our work towards women's equality at home and across the globe. Join us to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of immigrant women in Manitoba.

A light luncheon will be provided.

Please **RSVP by March 5, 2009**, to 945-6281 or 1-800-263-0234.

## CONFERENCES, EVENTS, AND RESOURCES



**March 11&12, 2009** - ***Advanced Suicide Prevention Training for Service Providers*** in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Presented by Klinik. For more information on this and other workshops, please visit the Klinik website at [www.klinik.mb.ca](http://www.klinik.mb.ca) or contact **Leslie Debrecen** at **784-4206**, or email [ldebrecen@klinik.mb.ca](mailto:ldebrecen@klinik.mb.ca).

**June 14-16, 2009** - ***1st Annual Canadian Conference on the Prevention Of Domestic Homicides*** in London, Ontario at the London, Ontario, Convention Centre. Hosted by Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario. The Conference is intended to enhance networking and partnerships amongst social science researchers, policy makers and practitioners (coroners, medical examiners, police, crown attorneys, anti-violence community agencies) in their review of domestic homicides across Canadian provinces and territories. Conference proceedings will focus on common risk factors and systemic gaps in policies, training and resources that are related to domestic homicides. The ultimate goal of this work is to prevent domestic violence and save lives lost to these tragedies. Hosted by Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario. **Registration begins February 28. Early Registration fee is \$275 until April 30, 2009.** For more information refer to [www.crvawc.ca/documents/Nat%20DVDRC%20conference%20flyer.pdf](http://www.crvawc.ca/documents/Nat%20DVDRC%20conference%20flyer.pdf) or contact contact **Maria Callaghan** at [mcallag@uwo.ca](mailto:mcallag@uwo.ca).

The **KLINIC TRAUMA-informed Toolkit** and the DVD ***Voices of Healing and Hope, Exiting the Sex Trade in Winnipeg*** were part of Klinik's launch of new initiatives on November 25, 2008. Both of these items are available for purchase for \$10 each. Visit [www.trauma-informed.ca](http://www.trauma-informed.ca) to view/order the Trauma Toolkit, and call **Leslie Debrecen** at **784-4206** to order the DVD.

**Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre** provides free counselling, support, and resources for women and children. Now with 3 locations at 1150-A Waverley Street (204)477-1123; 104-3100 Pembina Highway (204)261-3561; and a new site at 104-210 Ellen Street (204)946-0723. For information on all of our programs & services, contact [info@fgwrc.ca](mailto:info@fgwrc.ca) or visit [www.fgwrc.ca](http://www.fgwrc.ca).

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



*Supporting solutions to violence and abuse*

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## *2009 CARE Grants Call for Letters of Intent*



The CARE Grant Program furthers Prairieaction Foundation's goal to support community-based research into solutions to violence and abuse. The Program funds grassroots, community-based organizations to do research projects that identify potential strategies, models and methods to ultimately eliminate the issues and impact of family violence and abuse.

The essence of the CARE Grant Program is to fund front-line social service agencies and other non-profit organizations for research that will:

- Identify effective strategies, models and methods to prevent and alleviate violence and abuse; or
- Demonstrate the impact of a specific program or approach in providing solutions to violence and/or abuse.

### **RESOLVE Research Network**

We recognize that in many situations, community-based organizations that work at the heart of an issue will benefit from working collaboratively with academic researchers and other relevant partners. **RESOLVE** is a university-based network of academic researchers at the universities of Calgary, Manitoba and Regina. RESOLVE coordinates and supports research aimed at ending family violence and abuse and is available to work in partnership with community-based organizations in development of action-oriented research projects. We encourage you to contact the RESOLVE office in your province.

Grants will be allocated with consideration of location, with priority given to underserved communities.

Letters of Intent must be submitted in MS Word and must be received by e-mail **no later than 4PM (Mountain Standard Time) on March 26, 2009**. Email [prairie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:prairie@ucalgary.ca) with the subject line **CARE Grant Program**. ☼

#### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *Where Was There To Go?: Osborne House 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



*by Victoria Lehman B.A., M.A., LLB. - Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba*

This year marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of Osborne House, Winnipeg's first shelter for abused women. Congratulations are in order for our community and for the progress made over the past thirty-five years. Despite all developments, and before we become too self-congratulatory and consider that we are so much more advanced than other parts of the world, let us somberly reflect that it was only in the 1970's that our own criminal code precluded a man from being charged with the rape of his wife.

Recently, I spoke with woman of 86 years, one who had money and family to support her but had stayed in a life-threatening, degrading marriage, rather than separate or divorce. I asked "Why did you stay?", especially as the repercussions of that hell of a marriage had extremely deleterious effects on the lives of her children. Her response was "Where was there to go?"

In fact, in the 1940's this same woman had taken her own mother to a lawyer to seek relief but had to turn back when her mother said that she would continue to worry about her philandering, alcoholic and abusive husband. The daughter then realized that there would be no separation that day, or any day. Both generations of women only received the traditional due reward of an abusive marriage when they were widowed. These women, like all women in their circumstances, lived in mortal fear for the entire 50 years of their marriages.



**Barbara Judt, Chair,  
Osborne House, with recognition award  
presented by MLA's Bonnie Mitchelson  
and Myrna Driedger**

Even now, "Where was there to go?" is as much a psychological or philosophical question, as a question of fact. The senior woman above had substantial financial and familial resources but had limitations within herself.

There often were, and there most certainly are now, resources to which an abused woman may seek help. "Zero tolerance" laws for spousal assault; second-stage housing for transition from women's shelters to long-term housing; and the social stigma of being in an abusive marriage is largely on the wane. Government and non-profit programs are readily available and are widely advertised; knowledge of these resources is limited

only to those new Canadians for whom English and French are not accessible. Even then, there are inroads that have been made to many ethnic communities. Although the "information gap" has been greatly reduced, the "isolation gap" continues to be subjective and internal to the victim.

Our community has made tremendous progress

***Where Was There to Go?, cont'd on page 6***

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| 4. Bridging the Gap, cont.                                   | 7. Announcements /<br>Conferences |
|  | 8. Prairieaction Update           |

## Saskatchewan Update

### *Bridging the Gap: Criminal Harassment Victimization and the Criminal Justice Response*



by Deb George, Stacey Burkhart and Jill Arnott - Domestic Violence Unit, Family Service Regina

Staff of Family Service Regina's Domestic Violence Unit identified an overwhelming number of individuals whose lives were affected by criminal harassment, and recognized the extreme level of frustration they experienced in seeking safe and concrete resolutions to this serious social and criminal justice issue. One-on-one work with survivors, involving shared frustration and concerns for safety, motivated an initial research project focused on identifying the primary areas of concern within this issue. Status of Women Canada saw value in seeking ways we might more effectively address criminal harassment and agreed to fund our project.

A significant aspect of phase one centered on data gathered via the interview process. In addition to hearing the stories of survivors, we met with individuals from as many areas involved in both the community and the criminal justice response to criminal harassment as possible. Phase two saw us continuing to follow the experiences of targets and reviewing case files, as well as gathering detailed information from Regina and Saskatoon Police Services via interviews and surveys with a cross-section of officers and an examination of each agency's policies, strategic plan and organizational structure. Our approach allowed us access to a variety of perspectives.

One of the most significant findings coming out of both phases of research is that those working within the system have many of the same concerns and frustrations as targets do. The manner in which these are experienced are different, but the fact that they are shared across the boundary of "victim" and "system" validated our initial suspicion that criminal harassment and the surrounding issues need to be explored further to establish how we might systemically address it with greater degrees of efficacy.

The single greatest factor that emerged from the first phase of research, from both victims and those working within the system, and confirmed in phase

two by police officers and learning event participants, was the lack of consistent knowledge, and in turn, the need for education that focuses explicitly on criminal harassment. Furthermore, a lack of proper and/or comprehensive understanding of domestic violence has a critical impact on understanding domestic-related stalking. Former partner stalkers are characterized by an extreme desire to control, an inability to handle rejection a steadfast sense of entitlement, a vengeful attitude and an assumption of little or no responsibility. Behaviours and actions that are not overtly harassing, threatening or criminal on their own become so when they are unwanted and repeated, and even more

so in the context of a past relationship governed largely by fear. Failure to recognize the seriousness of criminal harassment, both on its own, and as an extension of domestic violence, heightens the potential for profound harm and lethal violence.

At every step in the process, we are failing some targets, for there appears to be a filtering system in place that determines the course of

action taken. Minimization is possible at every stop in the process. Targets second-guess themselves right at the outset, wondering if they are over-reacting, or attempt to "handle it" on their own. The generalized lack of knowledge and misunderstanding of this crime is reflected in (sometimes) faulty/flawed advice and direction and minimization from friends and family to whom targets often turn for support and validation. The first professional contacted may not be a police service, and again, the general lack of knowledge here frequently compromises a target's ability to engage protective measures and receive supportive services.

Given that the police represent the entry point to the criminal justice system and their response affects everything that follows, appropriate and timely police intervention is essential. All targets interviewed noted encountering knowledgeable, compassionate and helpful police officers, although this usually occurred after several negative experiences characterized by

*Bridging the Gap, cont'd on page 4*



Stacey Burkhart and Deb George

## Manitoba Update

### Update on the Canadian Observatory on the Justice System's Response to Intimate Partner Violence



by Cheryl Fraehlich

The Canadian Observatory on the justice system's response to intimate partner violence was formally established in 2007. The Observatory is a national/international network of researchers, practitioners and policy-makers from across many disciplines with an interest in conducting research that examines and compares the justice system's response to intimate partner violence (IPV) across the country and abroad. Housed in the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence at the University of New Brunswick and led by the centre director, **Dr. Carmen Gill**, the Observatory includes members from Canada (including members from all three RESOLVE centres), the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. The last 18 months have been busy for the Observatory and many projects are underway or near completion. Some of the specific activities undertaken by teams of observatory members include:

#### Standardized Data Collection Grid:

Although information about the justice system processing of IPV cases has been collected in Canadian jurisdictions, a lack of standardization of the collected information makes comparison difficult. During 2007/2008, Observatory members developed a data collection grid to gather information from Crown prosecutors' files and piloted this grid in four sites that include Winnipeg, Guelph, Calgary and Fredericton. The hope is that in the future, this instrument will allow the establishment of a data set that will facilitate interjurisdictional comparison on the justice system response in IPV cases.

**Dialogue With Government:** Team members in British Columbia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Ontario, and the Atlantic region are contacting those provincial and territorial justice system agencies responding to IPV that do not currently share data with researchers. The purpose of establishing this dialogue is to create a better understanding of the importance of research and sharing data on the justice system response to IPV and to create a better understanding of the obstacles facing researchers who pursue research in this area. Although more work is required, team members also report that their efforts are achieving success in

establishing dialogue with provincial/territorial/federal governments and feel confident and optimistic about the relationships they are developing.

**Literature Review:** The purpose of this project is to compile existing literature on the justice system response to IPV. The literature review will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 consists of the creation of an annotated bibliography that includes literature from the years 2000 to 2008 and phase 2 will take the form of a critical literature review. At present, an annotated bibliography comprised of English-language documents, French-language documents and a specialized section that pertains to the justice system response to immigrant and refugee women who experience IPV has been developed. These sections of the annotated bibliography will be compiled into one document that will be available through the Canadian observatory website in the near future.

**Policy Audit:** Team members are conducting a policy audit that includes a search of policy documents related to IPV and the justice system in Canada. The policy audit will provide insight into what is happening across the country and inform research directions. In addition, the audit will allow for the identification of gaps in policy and an examination of the policy cycle from policy development and intent to policy implementation and impact. Similar to the literature review, the policy audit includes a specialized section of policies specifically relevant to immigrant and refugee women who experience IPV.

**Creation of Opportunities for Students and New Researchers:** Creation of opportunities for student involvement is an important component of the Canadian observatory. Research assistantships have allowed students to work on each of the projects described here. Through its Postdoctoral Fellowship program, the observatory also welcomed three postdoctoral research fellows in 2008.

To learn more about the activities of the observatory, refer to [www.unb.ca/observ/](http://www.unb.ca/observ/).



Dr. Cheryl Fraehlich

*“Bridging the Gap”* cont’d from page 2

condescending attitudes that “blame the victim.” Crimes between intimates are often perceived to involve a greater degree of victim responsibility or provocation. This impacts the response received by targets being stalked by their former intimate partners. When targets are turned away or not taken seriously by the police, there is no deterrence to escalating stalking behaviours and potential violence, no system-generated safety measures for targets, and no possibility of prosecution, sentencing or court-ordered and monitored treatment for stalkers. Further, if the police response is lacking in any way, successful prosecution and sentencing is compromised, targets remain at risk, and stalkers continue to receive the message that this is not a serious issue, and thus, they will not suffer serious consequences, if any at all.



Jill Arnott

A significant problem commonly cited is the “breaching cycle.” The cycle follows a trajectory of arrest, release on protective conditions, breach of the conditions, arrest, release on the same conditions etc. ad infinitum. Common in domestic violence and criminal harassment cases, and often continuing for a lengthy period of time before resulting in harsher consequences, many justice workers feel that this cycle has become an ‘accepted glitch’ in the system. The breaching cycle is a source of extreme frustration for all involved because it consumes valuable resources to no effective end, it renders front-line workers powerless to provide any real or concrete protection to targets as it gives stalkers repeated opportunities to do harm, and it leaves all involved (from target to perpetrator, as well as those who work in human services and criminal justice) feeling that the system does not take the issue seriously.

The final layer of the filtering system is the court - prosecutors and judiciary alike; thus pro-active sentencing (that is, sentencing that will function as a deterrence) and court-ordered treatment requires knowledge and vigilance on the part of those prosecuting criminal harassment cases and insight and wisdom on the part of those making sentence determinations. When sentencing constitutes a continuation of the breaching cycle - that is, imposes the same conditions that were breached pre-sentence - it fails to effectively deter future engagement in such behaviour. Many interviewees expressed a lack of hope when discussing the breaching cycle and inconsequential sentencing

practices.

An issue raised by most human service workers is that are operative in different cultural communities and the failure of front-line workers to recognize and/or provide for these differences. In Saskatchewan specifically, First Nations targets are unlikely to describe stalking incidents in terms that readily identify them as such to any areas of the system they engage, from police to shelter workers to social service workers. This, coupled with higher degrees of normalized or acceptable violence often means that some targets are less likely to be made aware of, or receive access to, all the resources available to them. Cultural sensitivity is essential to responding effectively to all victims of domestic violence and targets of stalking.

The degree to which the system depends on stalking targets to gather evidence was expressed as a concern by both targets and those working with them. This was confirmed by Regina and Saskatoon police officers who cited the complainant’s lack of knowledge about criminal harassment and how the inadequate job they do in collecting useful evidence as the greatest difficulties police encounter in identifying and investigating criminal harassment. The lack of understanding, both systemically and culturally, means that most targets are unaware, for a significant period of time, that the behaviour in question is actually criminal and are unlikely to seek advice or assistance. The process is extended and the potential for violence is increased due to the heavy reliance on targets to “get what is needed.” For stalking targets already experiencing significant levels of stress and fear and struggling to simply maintain some degree of normalcy in their daily lives, the added burden of compiling evidence further taxes mental, emotional and physical resources that are already being stretched thin. Given this significant dependence on targets, the necessity for knowledgeable and understanding front-line workers, capable of identifying stalking cases early and providing appropriate support, sound advice and useful resources to stalking targets, is of utmost importance.

In conclusion, several issues were raised repeatedly, with a resounding echo, throughout the course of this research project that, in our estimation, require serious assessment and provide the starting points from which we might begin to address criminal harassment with greater success. ☘

## Alberta Update



by *Leslie M. Tutty*

**R**ESOLVE Alberta recently completed a report entitled *An Environmental Scan of Strategies to Safely House Abused Women*. This project consisted of a review of strategies of safe houses for abused women in published academic literature and Internet sites. One area the document examines is housing options for abused women commonly available in Canada, such as emergency protection orders, emergency women's shelters, second-stage shelters, and permanent housing through public and private sectors. Several novel models for housing abused Canadian women through the use of safe homes, interim housing, and third-stage shelters are also explored. As well, we looked at options to assist women to remain in the family home while increasing the women's safety from an abusive intimate partner.

Information from each housing option is subdivided into an overview of options, safety issues, maximum stay length, quality of housing, emotional support, and access. These variables were selected based on the authors' long histories of interviewing and working with abused women with respect to housing and other numerous issues.

This project developed from the previous national research project *A Feasibility Study for a National Network of Women's Shelters and Transition houses* prepared for the Housing and Homelessness Branch, Department of Human Resources and Social Development, Ottawa, in 2007. At a presentation of the results to members of the *Alliance to End Violence*, it became clear that not only was safe housing an issue for Calgary and the province of Alberta, but also for other concerned groups. Groups such as Calgary's *Poverty Reduction Coalition* were also involved in attempts to solve such complex issues. This project was created in an effort to support those efforts. Thanks are gratefully extended to the Poverty Reduction Coalition for funding the environmental scan.

The Research Advisory team for the project included **Andrea Silverstone**, *Chair* of the Calgary Domestic Violence Committee and *Executive Director* of Peer Support Services for Abused Women; **Karen Walroth**, previous *Executive Director* and **Linda White**, current *Executive Director* of the Alliance to End Violence; **Jean Dunbar**, of Calgary's YWCA Sheriff King Home; **Chris**

**MacFarlane**, Calgary Poverty Reduction Coalition; **Jan Reimer** and **Kate Woodman** of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters; and **Dr. Wilfreda (Billie) Thurston**, *Director*, Institute for Gender Research, University of Calgary. For copies of the report, please email [tutty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tutty@ucalgary.ca) or [resolve@ucalgary.ca](mailto:resolve@ucalgary.ca).

This project is the first phase of the recently approved national project *Identifying Best Practices to Safely House Abused and Homeless Women*, funded by the *Homelessness Knowledge Development Program*, *Homeless Partnering Secretariat*, *Human Resources and Social Development Canada*. This project consists of interviews that will gather the views on how best to address housing and safety issues with 50 to 60 women who have experienced partner abuse and homelessness.



### Other RESOLVE Alberta Updates

We were very lucky to have had **Bianca Giurgiu** work with RESOLVE Alberta during the Winter Term as an MSW practicum placement. Bianca is originally from Romania and plans to conduct an MSW thesis on the experiences of abused women who have immigrated to Canada from Eastern Europe. While with RESOLVE, Bianca worked on several projects; conducted interviews with abused women who had experienced some form of homelessness; conducted an environmental scan of strategies to safely house abused women after a shelter stay; and analyzed quantitative data on a one-day training program with respect to immigrant women and legal issues. We are fortunate that Bianca will continue to work with RESOLVE Alberta over the summer as a research assistant.



*Bianca Giurgiu*

Mallory Faul, who collected Crown files data over the past year for the NCPC-funded *HomeFront* project, has left to work with the *Elizabeth Fry Society* in Calgary. We wish Mallory all the best in her future endeavours.



*“Where Was There to Go?”* cont'd from page 1

toward addressing spousal abuse. The *Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba* has passed many resolutions in support of these efforts; millions of dollars have been invested; and a community that involves government, university research and numerous non-government agencies are all connected in an attempt to assist families embroiled in this issue. However, spousal abuse seems to continue unabated.

Why does this problem continue? The answer is that every situation is unique to the individuals involved in this most intimate of relationships, and the most dangerous time for the abused wife is still at the point of separation. Therefore, any abused spouse must seriously consider the timing and consequences of the point of departure, and should be encouraged to seek professional outside assistance in the endeavour to separate-involving family only broadens the range of potential targets. The departure unbalances the dynamics of the relationship, which often causes feelings of abandonment and rage. Such feelings can result in lethal violence in spousal abuse cases where previously the abuse had mistakenly perhaps appeared “manageable” to the abused spouse.

The point of separation sees a common occurrence of relationship dysphoria that can quickly turn into a potentially lethal scenario. By far, the situation results in the most dangerous circumstances for law enforcement and for those in the extended circle of family or friends, even more than most other criminal matters that require enforcement intervention. Even those professionally involved, such as lawyers and judges, can be affected.

The cycle tends to repeat itself an average of eight times, as the abused partner makes limitless attempts to work through her part of the relationship. At this time she will have grave doubts about her own self-worth. She will also struggle with the sense of responsibility with which only the truly “co-dependent” can be burdened- both for the abusing partner and the desire to “give the children a father.”

While the situation is frustrating to all involved, and may appear delusional from an outside perspective, there is no insight that can be “injected” into the abused spouse. What is needed is for young girls and boys to be educated in areas of bullying; abuse; mental illness -as there is sometimes an organic, physical basis for violent behaviour, such as “explosive disorder”; and personality disorders (psychology). This education is needed in order

to inoculate them from the negative impact of what they may learn in a toxic home environment. We continue to act in the hope and expectation that our continuing education and vigilance in this issue as a community will have the same positive effect as in tobacco and alcohol education. Such programs are not completely effective due to lack of community cohesion and resource support of the individual and families. A result is a feeling of hopelessness, disaffection and alienation. Relationships between intimate partners of all races, genders, sexual orientation and economic levels, are distorted in power between the parties, which are then susceptible to abuse. Truly, the price of women’s freedom from abusive relationships is to continue to direct our ongoing energies and resources to this issue. Our efforts must never abate. ❧



*Supporters at Government House celebrating Osborne House’s 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

**Source: *Statistics Canada 2008 Shelter’s For Abused Women* by Julie Sauve and Mike Burns**

- 101,000 women and children were admitted to 569 shelters in Canada, between April 2007 and March 31 2008.
- Over half of the women admitted to shelters came with their children.
- 9 out of 10 of the shelter residents did not plan to return to live with their abusive partner.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



We bid a fond farewell to Julie Shirtliff, our amazing office manager, who has worked with us since September 2008. During this period she organized our 2008 Research Day, developed an office procedures manual and sorted out our office—no small task in the short time she has been with us. While Julie is a marvel of organizational skill, she is especially appreciated for her joyful good humour and thoughtful support for all of our staff. Coming into work each day is a pleasure because of the warm and friendly office atmosphere she creates. Julie is moving because her husband received a marvelous job in Ontario. While we will greatly miss her, we wish Julie and Phil all the best.

This past month we have seen two wonderful new additions to our staff. **Anita King** joined RESOLVE in early April as our new book keeper. Anita works half time for the Departments of Religion and German and Slavic Studies and the other half at RESOLVE. Already it is evident that she is a great multi-tasker. She brings a wealth of office experience with her and a quiet confidence that inspires us as we deal with our complex budgeting processes. In late April, **Cindi Porcher** joined RESOLVE. Cindi was just completing a term as Administrative Assistant in the Faculty of Human Ecology when we learned of Julie's upcoming move. Cindi bravely parachuted in to learn the complex files, forms and finances that make our office run. We are so delighted to have such an experienced administrator available to us. She will be our Acting Office Manager until our formal hiring process begins.

## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



**June 16 – 19, 2009 - Canadian Domestic Violence Conference: Working With Those Who Perpetrate Abuse and Their Families** in Toronto, Ontario, at the Hart House Theatre, University of Toronto. Presented by Hincks-Dellcrest Centre - Gail Appel Institute. Presenters include **Della Yaroshko** and **Deb Farden**. Details are available at [www.canadiandomesticviolenceconference.ca](http://www.canadiandomesticviolenceconference.ca). For more information contact Shannon Holcomb at **416-972-1935 x3340** or [sholcomb@hincksdellcrest.org](mailto:sholcomb@hincksdellcrest.org) or [training@hincksdellcrest.org](mailto:training@hincksdellcrest.org).



**November 19 – 20, 2009 - Research Day 2009: Healing From Violence and Abuse** in Regina, Saskatchewan, at the Regina Inn and Conference Centre. Presented by RESOLVE Saskatchewan.

Call for papers and registration information can be found on the RESOLVE Saskatchewan website at [www.uregina.ca/resolve/](http://www.uregina.ca/resolve/). Submission deadline is June 30, 2009. For more information contact Mary Hampton or Ann Bishop at **306-337-2511** or [RESOLVE@uregina.ca](mailto:RESOLVE@uregina.ca).

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Ceplis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



*Supporting solutions to violence and abuse*

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## *Changes at Prairieaction Foundation*



**P**rairieaction Foundation is growing and changing. Following almost a year of research and careful consideration, the Board of Directors of Prairieaction Foundation made a decision to hire an association management firm to handle all administration requirements. Effective March 1, 2009, **Strauss Event & Association Management** joined our team. **Martin Strauss** is our new Executive Director and **Kirsten Parker** our Executive Assistant. Please make note of the additional changes:

**New address:** 386 Broadway, Suite 503  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3R6

**Toll-free telephone:** 1-877-926-8129

**Toll-free fax:** 1-877-947-9767

**Email address:** [prairieaction@sasktel.net](mailto:prairieaction@sasktel.net)

**Web site:** [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca)



*Martin Strauss*

As a tri-provincial foundation, we are committed to ensuring that the reputation and work of Prairieaction Foundation is maintained and elevated in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. We are confident that this change is a good fit for Prairieaction Foundation and that our donors and friends of the Foundation will agree. As always, we welcome your comments and feedback and invite you to share your thoughts with us. I am also a telephone call away and can be reached at **1-306-535-5607** or [dianna.waffle@sasktel.net](mailto:dianna.waffle@sasktel.net).

Have a safe and happy summer!

Dianna Waffle, *President*

Prairieaction Foundation ☘

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*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *Manitoba Corrections: Criminal Organization and High Risk Offender Unit*



*by Pauline Jackson, Probation Officer*

*For all of us who work in the field of domestic violence, we are very aware of how frequently abusers who have been prosecuted do reoffend. Some are chronic re-offenders and pose a very high level of threat to their victim/s. We also know that jail sentences tend to be short. So what can be done to enhance victim's safety in such circumstances? Manitoba has a special unit in Probation to deal with such cases and I have asked **Pauline Jackson**, a probation officer working in the unit to write about her experience in this program.*

*- Jane Ursel*

**T**he Criminal Organization High Risk Offender Unit (COHROU) is a specialized probation unit established by the Manitoba Minister of Justice in May 2000, to target organized crime and very high risk adult offenders in the city of Winnipeg. COHROU deals with those who are family violence offenders, sex offenders, random assault offenders, mentally disabled/disorder offenders and offenders involved in organized crime.

I work in the domestic violence unit of COHROU. Perhaps the best way to explain our program is to present a case history to illustrate how we work, and the challenges we encounter. The name of the individual has been changed.

### **CASE STUDY**

Brian was sentenced to 6 months incarceration, followed by 2 years supervised probation as a result of being convicted of 2 counts of domestic assault. He had 3 previous convictions for domestic assault involving 2 other women and 4 convictions for breaching his court orders. He was assessed as high risk to reoffend in general criminal behaviour. Brian is single and has 2 children by two different women by the age of 21. He

was essentially homeless. He has been diagnosed with ADHD and has not found success with medication. As well, he has chronic organic impairments due to alcohol related neurodevelopment disorder. A neuropsychological assessment stressed that Brian responds positively to highly structured and stable settings. The assessment further stated the prognosis that Brian would be at significant risk for self harm or harming others if left to function independently in the community.

Due to his history of non compliance and escalation of violence and disregard for his victims, Brian was referred to COHROU by prosecutions. In the initial *Assessment and Stabilization* phase of the COHROU Program, a comprehensive review of all his risks, needs, victim safety issues and agency involvement was undertaken. As a result, a multi-system team that met regularly was pulled together to strategize these key areas. Brian responded to the strict expectations of reporting and engaged in a trusting relationship with COHROU staff. Brian was, however, unable to appreciate the full impact of the changes he would need to make in his life to overcome these barriers. While he was offered a variety of housing opportunities, he rejected them.

**Manitoba Corrections: COHROU, cont'd on page 6**

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## *Recession and its Effect on the Non-Profit Sector*



by Sharon Taylor, Wolseley Family Place

Many of our readers and partners in research work in NGOs are concerned about the impact of the recession upon their services and their clients. We invited **Sharon Taylor**, Executive Director of **Wolseley Family Place**, and member of RESOLVE Manitoba, to share her experiences after attending a conference addressing this issue.

- Jane Ursel

As the director of a multi service family resource centre, I have had a growing concern about the impact of the recession on my agency. My concern is not about staying afloat merely for the sake of staying in business. Instead, what matters is making sure that we remain open in order to serve the public, particularly in times of an increased demand for services. Our survival is important in order to continue to help people with the greatest needs.

We are all concerned that with leaner times corporate donations will fall as profits tumble; foundations will cut back on grants as returns on endowments decline; individuals will reduce donations as unemployment and economic insecurity rises; provincial and federal governments will cut social services and spending on health and education as tax receipts fall; the federal government will cut payments to the non-profit sector to pay back the stimulus package. And if government cuts funding to non-profit organizations, by how much? These questions are just a few of my concerns as the director of a non-profit organization.

Most importantly though, how will these cutbacks affect the participants/clients of non-profits? Many of the people served in non-profit organizations are the most marginalized, disenfranchised, and with limited resources. We are usually their only resource, and their needs increase in times of financial stress.

In May 2009, I attended a workshop called *Forward Together: Leading the Non-Profit Sector Through the Recession*. Participants spent the day learning about restructuring strategies, resources, tips and tools. Although very enlightening, the event was scary at the same time. Below are some highlights from the conference with links for further information.

Indicators suggest that non-profits are not feeling the

pinch just yet. But it is said that in 2010, there will be a decrease in funding, insufficient notice of cutbacks; and some will only receive status quo funding and increased workloads with more demands from participants/clients. To survive, non-profit organizations need to restructure. The definition of restructuring is "to develop or refine the strategic and operational infrastructure of an organization to fortify its impact and build resiliency."

Some of the tips are:

1. Non-profits need to share worries with boards and funders and enlist their support in getting ready for a recession. We need to get by on decreased revenue and program spending and not take on new expenses.
2. Avoid large investments in assets and infrastructure such as purchasing a building or expansion of services.
3. If you have a specific donor, it is important to diversify your fundraising strategies.
4. Majority of private donations come from donors who give smaller amounts there direct mail may be the way to go.
5. Prepare and develop a recession plan that assesses the organization and its programs
6. Have a scenario plan, such as "If we lose 10%, 20%, etc." Address the "what ifs."

Implementing a recession plan and its major steps are:

1. Assess your recession preparedness
2. Prepare and analyze your cash flows forecasts
3. Use financial ratios to understand the financial health of the organization.
4. Develop scenario plans based on estimates of reduced funding/donations.

For details on these points, contact Sharon Taylor or refer to [www.charityvillage.ca/cv/research/rom58.html](http://www.charityvillage.ca/cv/research/rom58.html).

Other helpful details include learning about mergers; diverse funding; sharing of services and space; outsourcing services such as accounting, etc.; contract staff versus full time staff, job sharing; maximizing volunteers, bonuses versus salary increases; etc.



## Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

**R**ESOLVE Manitoba is happy to announce our **2009–2010 Carolynne Boivin Bursary recipients**. The bursary was set up in 1999 when Carolynne Boivin, founding president of the Prairieaction Foundation, retired from the Foundation.

Happily, Carolynne has remained connected with RESOLVE and she sits on the awards committee each year. From 2000 to 2006 we have made an annual award to a graduate student pursuing studies in the field of domestic violence. In 2007-08, we received a very generous contribution to the bursary fund from Carolynne and her husband Dan, which has permitted us to award two bursaries per year. We are pleased to congratulate to our recipients this year, **Rana Bokhari** from the Faculty of Law, and **Judy Kienas**, who is a Phd. student in Psychology.

Rana Bokhari was born in Winnipeg, graduating with a B.A. in Psychology in February 2008 and an Honours thesis in Sociology in 2009. Rana is currently a first year student in the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. In her application she stated *"I am passionate about issues surrounding new immigrants from patriarchal societies and the relationship of first generation*



Rana Bokhari

*children to their parents. As a first generation Muslim woman I know the issue well."* Rana is interested in continuing research examining access to justice issues facing immigrant women. She is specifically interested in examining why immigrant women choose not to report domestic violence. With her background in criminology, sociology and law, she hopes to help fill the gap in the available literature. We look forward to her contribution to our better understanding of immigrant issues, first generation children and concerns about family violence.



Judy Kienas

Judy Kienas is a Masters student in Psychology at the University of Manitoba and plans to continue with her PhD. studies in clinical psychology. Her proposed dissertation work will involve a study of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women who have experienced domestic violence. She is particularly interested in the response these women receive when they disclose their victimization. Judy has considerable clinical experience having worked for three years counseling couples who have experienced abusive dynamics in their relationship at the Elizabeth Hill Centre in Winnipeg. Judy is also an employee of RESOLVE as an interviewer for the **Healing Journey Study** and she has recently assumed the role of project coordinator for the same study. Judy is an outstanding interviewer and we look forward to her proposed dissertation. ☘

### Did you know...

- Since the inception of pro-arrest policies, women's groups have been concerned about dual arrests, i.e. officers respond to a call for help, then arrest both parties.
- Data shows that in Winnipeg, the dual-arrest rate rose from 6% of all cases to 9% of all cases when mandatory charging policies were introduced in 1993.
- The Winnipeg Police Service introduced specialized training on primary aggressors in 2001.
- By 2004 the dual arrest rate dropped to 5%.

## *Saskatchewan Update: Healing in Community—An Evaluation of the Residential Healing Program at Tamara’s House Services for Sexual Abuse Survivors Inc.*



by Karen Wood

**I** **mag**ine a woman in her late forties, doing her best to be a good mother and supportive partner. Imagine this same woman struggling every day because of the impact of having been sexually abused as a child. She has low self-esteem, difficulty trusting others, and does her best to cope with the memories and emotions. Despite her best efforts, she continues to drink frequently, and struggles as a parent. To address the effects of child sexual abuse (CSA), this woman went to Tamara’s House.



Tamara’s House

Tamara’s House residence, the first of its kind in Canada, is a program for women of all backgrounds to work intensely on CSA issues. The approach used in the residence is unique and is based on the principles of self-directed, holistic healing within a community home setting. Like other women in the residence, this woman experienced growth in such everyday activities as preparing meals, and in being surrounded by other women who have ‘been there.’ She went through the process of setting goals—something that she found challenging, and she experienced the structured programming, social skill development, self-reflection, and role modeling available throughout the program. Most importantly, she was supported in directing her own healing process.

Now imagine. This same woman feels she is a better parent and partner. She no longer drinks, and continues to make changes she feels are necessary to be healthy. She explains, “I have learned I have a voice. I’ve learned to recognize when I get triggered and my behaviour when I do. I’m going to really listen to myself, stand up and stick up for me. Take care of me.”

In 2007, the **CARE Grant Program** of the **Prairieaction Foundation** provided funding for an impact evaluation of the residence. The findings are overwhelmingly positive, and include recommendations to further strengthen the program. The residence was found to have a strong, clearly articulated philosophical and theoretical foundation, and that it provides accessible, responsive and fluid programming for women from a wide range of backgrounds and needs. One woman said “each staff member has a different skill or gift. They find what’s helpful for each woman, especially around spirituality. Balance is emphasized, and there is a respectful approach to diverse perspectives.” The impact evaluation also provides recommendations, including the need for more resources for staff to develop cultural competency; implementation of a follow-up program; and further development and support of the goal-setting process.

Change happens in different ways for women who go through the residence program, change that is often gradual, unpredictable, and uncontrollable. One woman explained that “the seeds have been planted, and they might not blossom and grow until much later.” Tamara’s House is grateful to the *Prairieaction Foundation* for the opportunity to continue to plant seeds of change in order to more effectively support women healing from child sexual abuse. ❧

### **Interested in attending the residence?**

Call **Sheri** at Tamara’s House at **(306) 683-8667** or **Toll Free** at **1-877-626-1222** from **Monday to Thursday during the day**.

An initial interview will be conducted to complete an assessment and to provide additional information about the residence. Once the assessment is completed, a date is scheduled for arrival. Pending the completion of some paperwork, you finally arrive for your stay. **WELCOME.**

## Alberta Update



by Leslie M. Tutty

Last winter, RESOLVE Alberta completed an evaluation “Training External Facilitators to Provide CCASA’s ‘Who Do You Tell?’™ Child Sexual Abuse Education Program: An Evaluation,” authored by **Dr. Leslie Tutty** and **Choni Tenzin**. The “Who Do You Tell?”™ (WDYT) program of Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse has been offered for over two decades. Evaluations of the program (Tutty, 1997; 2004) have been positive, identifying that elementary school-aged children learn the concepts taught and retain this knowledge over at least several months (Tutty, 1997). Further, children interviewed in focus groups commented that the program information is relevant and important to them and recommend that it be available to other students (Tutty, 2004).

Despite its successes, the WDYT program, as with other school based education efforts, has experienced a number of implementation challenges. Beyond funding, an ever-present and ongoing problem for the small non-profit agencies that generally administer prevention efforts, the role of program facilitator can be repetitive and retaining staff a challenge. Moreover, offering and maintaining the program has its own unique challenges. The current waitlist for the program in Calgary is about four or five years. How, then, can the agency best address requests from other Alberta communities to provide WDYT to their students?

The research evaluated a pilot project of the **Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse** (CCASA) experimented with a new structure of service delivery for WDYT. Historically, the program has been delivered by CCASA staff. However, the agency was experiencing some problems with relying solely upon their own staff to deliver the program, in that the demands of the program were too great to meet on a continual basis.

As a possible solution to this problem, CCASA has partnered with agencies in several Alberta centres, training their staff to deliver the *Who Do You Tell?* program. CCASA wished to assess the impact of this new change in service delivery, and approached RESOLVE Alberta to conduct the evaluation. This report

documents a qualitative evaluation of that training based on in-depth interviews with 12 respondents: four CCASA staff and eight newly trained facilitators.

In general, the CCASA program staff and the newly trained facilitators found the training and materials helpful and subsequently felt prepared to deliver the WDYT program. Only two facilitators had offered the program to students. Both were pleased with the manual and their training to deal with possible abuse disclosures. Their presentations went well and their interactions with teachers and principals were positive.

The CCASA staff and the trainees made recommendations to improve training. Interestingly, the same suggestions often came from both constituent groups: The CCASA staff had a good sense of how they might improve the training suggesting several strategies that were also validated by their “students.”

In summary, disseminating CCASA’s “Who Do You Tell?”™ child sexual abuse education program seems viable using the comprehensive training model utilized in this pilot project. The two newly trained facilitators who put their skills and knowledge to the test were pleased with the results. The other trained staff were hopeful that they would have similar opportunities in the near future. The report is available from [tutty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tutty@ucalgary.ca). To see a

promotional video of the WDYT program go to [www.whodoyoutell.com](http://www.whodoyoutell.com).



### Other RESOLVE Alberta News

We have two new research assistants working with the NCPC-funded HomeFront project due to be completed on March 2010. **Amanda Dietrich** and **Kristen Jones** have joined us. Amanda obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice from the University of New Brunswick in 2006. She has a number of years of experience working with high risk youth and adults. Kristen is completing her BA in sociology at the University of Calgary. Welcome to both! ☘

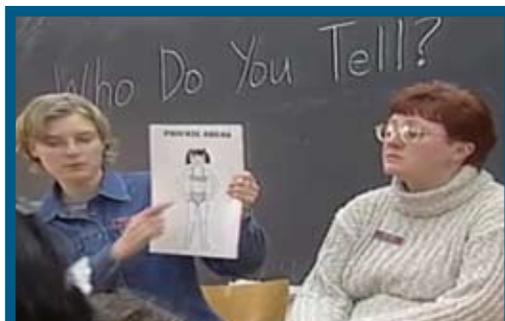


Image from “Who Do You Tell?”™

*“Manitoba Corrections: COHROU” cont’d from page 1*

He engaged in intensive domestic violence counseling in the *Intervention* phase. However, without having adequate emotional regulation skills, his impulsivity, lack of insight and inability to be retrospective resulted in questionable gains. After one year, Brian’s struggles reached a point where his risk to himself and others proved to be too great. We were able to convince the courts of his non-compliance and mounting risk and a warrant was issued for his arrest. While Brian was in custody we were able to convince the courts to support an intervention plan with specific conditions that targeted his risk for reoffending.

*Did the new conditions help?*

Brian has made positive steps forward. With the support of COHROU and the multi-system team, he rents a decent suite from a caring landlord, whom Brian invites to our team meetings; he has observed his daily curfew; Brian volunteers three days a week at a soup kitchen; he attends his psychiatric appointments and will soon begin working with an outreach worker to develop such skills as emotional regulation and problem-solving skills. We are only now achieving the basic structure for stability that may allow us to proceed with the cognitive restructuring of problematic beliefs around his views of women and other criminal thinking errors. Brian will experience many ‘firsts’ in this next phase and it will be a continuous challenge to fight his deep-rooted habits and beliefs. Despite these ongoing challenges, this case encourages us to believe that with a therapeutic relationship in conjunction with a well designed intervention plan based on evidenced-based treatment, front line workers can affect an incredible amount of change and challenge even the most dire of prognosis.

Thank you to the great number of devoted researchers who have pursued answering the question of “What works?” with offenders.

COHROU caseloads are smaller than traditional caseloads, averaging 15 clients per probation officer. As a result, probation officers can spend more time on preparing comprehensive assessments, developing and implementing prescriptive intervention plans, and

working intensively with each offender and the multi-systems teams. We are trained in and skilled at *Motivational Interviewing, Relapse Prevention* and *Cognitive Behavioural Skill Building*. COHROU staff are conditioned to listen for “change talk” and purposely nurture this “change talk” into prosocial behaviours.



The COHROU program has four phases that include an *Assessment/Stabilization Phase; Intervention Phase; Maintenance Phase; and Transfer to Regular Probation Phase*. The offender can progress through each phase based on achievement of specific goals at each phase, as the case study of Brian illustrates.

In addition to our intensive focus on the offender, we are also very committed to meeting the needs of victims. COHROU works collaboratively with **Victim Services** and provides information as required. For those clients not involved with Victim Services, or who do not wish to be involved, COHROU will complete and rehearse safety plans with victims who request this at their homes. COHROU will have ongoing contact and support with victims and notify them at critical junctures, and will co-ordinate with police services and/ or provide surveillance to support victims during high risk periods. ☘

*Pauline Jackson is a Probation Officer working in the Criminal Organization High Risk Offender Unit in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Prior to this she worked as a probation officer in the Family Violence Unit, where she joined the Program Team and assisted in providing options in domestic programming. She has also worked in three correctional centres, where she continued to specialize in program delivery. Along with her other duties, she is currently a Coach Trainer for the newly purchased risk assessment tool, the Level of Service Case Management Inventory.*

## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



**October 8, 2009 - Child Protection, Domestic Violence, Court Process and Protection Orders** workshop presented by Lori Anderson of Legal Aid Manitoba. The workshop will be held at the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, 6-8 pm, 1150A Waverley Street in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Pre-registration is required to this women's only event by calling 477-1123. Childcare, healthy snacks and bus tickets are available. Workshops are free. Please consider donating a non-perishable food item to FGWRC for women and children in need. Funded by the Manitoba Law Foundation. For more information contact the **Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre** at **(204)477-1123**.

**Tuesday Eveings: October 13 - December 1, 2009 - Healing From Abuse Group.** The sessions will be held at the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, 6-8:30 pm, 1150A Waverley Street in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This is a group for women who are coping with the impact of partner and/or childhood abuse. Topics explored will be recognizing and defining abuse; ways of coping; naming the losses associated with abuse; dealing with difficult emotions; building self esteem; and learning to be assertive. Space is limited. Contact the **Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre** at **(204)477-1123** to register.

**October 22 - CAG Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting 2009/Rèunion Scientifique et Éducative Annuelle de L'ACG 2009 Pre-Conference Workshop: Elder Abuse: Rippling Effects of Multi-Disciplinary Approaches,** at the Fairmont Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Presented by the Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG). For more information please visit the CAG website at [www.cagacg.ca/conferences/400\\_e.php](http://www.cagacg.ca/conferences/400_e.php) or contact **Strauss Event & Association Management** at **(204)947-9766**, or email [jdj@strauss.ca](mailto:jdj@strauss.ca).

**October 23 - CAG Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting 2009/Rèunion Scientifique et Éducative Annuelle de L'ACG 2009: Panel on Elder Abuse,** at the Fairmont Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Presented by the Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG). For more information please visit the CAG website at [www.cagacg.ca/conferences/400\\_e.php](http://www.cagacg.ca/conferences/400_e.php) or contact **Strauss Event & Association Management** at **(204)947-9766**, or email [jdj@strauss.ca](mailto:jdj@strauss.ca).

**November 2 - 3, 2009 - The New Wave of Violence: Misuse of Technology** at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Presented by Cynthia Fraser from the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Hosted by the Family Violence Consortium of Manitoba. For more information contact The Laurel Centre at **(204)774-2912** or email [info@thelaurelcentre.com](mailto:info@thelaurelcentre.com).

**November 16 - 17, 2009 - 9th Annual Diverse Voices Family Violence Conference** at the Fantasyland Hotel, West Edmonton Mall in Edmonton, Alberta. Early Bird Fee until October 23, 2009, is \$199; registration fee from October 24, 2009, is \$225. For more information, contact Cathy Harvey, Conference Coordinator, at [cathyharvey@canaevents.com](mailto:cathyharvey@canaevents.com) or **(780)485-5955**.



**November 19 – 20, 2009 - RESEARCH DAY 2009: Healing From Violence and Abuse** in Regina, Saskatchewan, at the Regina Inn and Conference Centre. Presented by RESOLVE Saskatchewan. For more information contact Mary Hampton or Ann Bishop at **306-337-2511** or [RESOLVE@uregina.ca](mailto:RESOLVE@uregina.ca).

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Cepelis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: [newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca)



*Supporting solutions to violence and abuse*

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## *2009 CARE Grants Recipients*



Prairieaction Foundation's CARE Grant Program furthers our goal to support community-based research into solutions to violence and abuse. The Program funds grassroots, community-based organizations to do action-oriented research that will improve their programs and identify effective strategies to alleviate and prevent violence and abuse in their communities.

We would like to congratulate the following organizations who received 2009 Care Grant awards:

**Alberta Council of Women's Shelters**, Edmonton, AB

**Alliance to End Violence Society of Calgary**, Calgary, AB

**First Nations Healing Centre**, Koostatak, MB

**Klinik Community Health Centre**, Winnipeg, MB

**Nova House**, Selkirk, MB

**Peace River Regional Women's Shelter**, Peace River, AB

**Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan**, Regina, SK

**Tamara's House Services for Sexual Abuse Survivors Inc.**, Saskatoon, SK

**WISH Inc. (Women in Second Stage Housing)**, Winnipeg, MB

We would also like to thank those who served on the *Grant Review Committee* for their dedication of time in support of this process. ☘

### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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*"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."  
The United Nations: The International Year of the Family, 1994*

Agreement# 40063171

## *Connect Family and Sexual Abuse Network*



*by Deb Thomlinson, Project Development Manager, Connect Family and Sexual Abuse Network*

**"O**nce the incident happened, I called the police and then had to retell my story to the social worker at the hospital and again to the shelter. It was hard to tell my story over and over again, after it had just happened. I can't speak for other victims of domestic violence, but by retelling your story, you feel as though you are reliving the incident, especially since the person you loved violated you in this way. If all the services were combined, the process would be a better experience."  
Carol, Domestic Violence Survivor

For individuals affected by domestic violence or sexual assault, finding the right support is not always easy. When individuals in need face obstacles and barriers to getting help, the chances of giving up increase.

Over the last few years, a number of Calgary based agency and system representatives within the domestic and sexual violence sector began working together to provide centralized access to seamless, comprehensive services and support for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse.

As a result, late last year the Calgary Collaborative Services Centre opened its doors at the new *Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre*. As part of the collaboration, local agencies placed domestic and sexual violence workers directly at the Centre to ensure referred individuals would receive support could access the wide range of excellent services that are available in Calgary.

In November 2009, the Centre launched a new name and identity - **Connect Family and Sexual Abuse Network (Connect)**. With one phone call to Connect, callers are provided with personal and

confidential assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week. While direct service delivery organizations specialize in providing a cluster of similar services to a specific target population, Connect is a single access point to a wide range of services representing different professional disciplines. Connect is available to any individual affected by the various forms of domestic violence and sexual assault/abuse - people of all ages, genders, abilities, sexual orientations, cultures and ethnicities as well as concerned friends, family and support people including professionals.

The integration of services that address domestic violence, and sexual assault and abuse, is a unique aspect of the newly developing Connect model. Domestic violence and sexual assault experiences do not occur in isolation and often overlap and intersect in individual's lives. Connect is developing a model of service delivery with the goal of providing an integrated response to the intersection of these two crimes.

"How well we are able to respond to requests for service is reliant on how well our partners are able to work together, explains **Deb Tomlinson**, *Project Development Manager*, "and over the past year, I have observed the growth and development of

*Connect Family and... cont'd on page 6*

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## Domestic Violence Prevention Month Launch – Manitoba



by Mary Dawson, Executive Director, The Winnipeg Children's Access Agency Inc.

On November 2, 2009, The Honourable Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Family Services and Housing, launched Domestic Violence Prevention Month in Manitoba. He began the day with opening remarks at a conference called *The New Wave of Violence: Misuse of Technology*. The conference featured Cynthia Fraser, Technology Safety Specialist, from the National Network to End Domestic Violence in Washington, D.C. Approximately ninety participants involved in the field of domestic violence attended the two-day conference. Topics included tracking and GPS, cellular phones, social networking sites, computers, cameras and accessibility technologies such as TTY and relay.



The Honourable Gord Mackintosh

At a press conference later that day, the Minister for the Status of Women, The Honourable Nancy Allan, announced that the Province is developing a cyberstalking strategy that would assist those who are victims of domestic violence. Minister Mackintosh announced additional funding for *At the Root*, which focuses on services for children affected by domestic violence. As part of this, he announced increased funding to The Winnipeg Children's Access Agency Inc. (WCAA) in the amount of \$167,000.

WCAA provides supervised visitation and exchange services to Winnipeg and the surrounding area. The agency facilitates weekly visits between children and their non-custodial parent in a safe, neutral and child-focused environment. One of the first supervised access programs in Western Canada, WCAA has grown significantly since it was established in 1996.

In August 2008, the agency relocated to a larger premise in response to ongoing community need. The announcement of additional funding will enable WCAA to increase visitation from 72 to 144 hours

each week. This will allow more families to use the service and will be helpful in the elimination of wait times. The changes will also create more opportunities for grandparent access. Manitoba has been innovative on issues related to grandparents by passing legislation recognizing the rights of grandparents and extended family members. There has also been a Grand Relations initiative at Family Conciliation, where a designated Grandparent Advisor can offer mediation and assistance to those in need.

WCAA relies significantly on the dedicated individuals who volunteer their time to providing direct service. Over the coming months, WCAA will recruit and train new visitation monitors and grow the existing mentor program. Key to the expansion will be to ensure adequate ratios of monitors to families.

At the launch, the Minister mentioned the Lavoie Inquiry and the recommendations that followed. WCAA was funded out of those recommendations over ten years ago and has exceeded all expectation with respect to the delivery of service and important place within a spectrum of domestic violence services available for families in Manitoba. I am amazed, humbled, and grateful for the opportunity WCAA has been given. I never knew Rhonda Lavoie\* but today the province reaffirmed their commitment to her legacy. Now, and each day because of her, children have a safe place to visit with their family members. ❧

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\* Rhonda Lavoie was abducted and murdered by her husband Roy, his second attempt. Roy was on bail for the second time, and had been denied treatment; Rhonda was denied social assistance; and there were many questions about police procedures. Source: Government of Manitoba Hansard 1st-36th, Volume 40a.

## Manitoba Update: Kudos to the Manitoba Law Society



by Jane Ursel

**F**or those of us who work with women trying to leave an abusive relationship, we know how critical it is for these women to have good legal representation in the process of separation and divorce. We know that a history of domestic violence often results in high conflict family law cases, particularly on issues of custody and access. In these very critical legal cases women often find that they do not meet the very low income threshold for legal aid but they cannot afford a lawyer. We hear from agency staff over and over again how serious a problem it is that their clients cannot get a lawyer.

In November 2009, the *Manitoba Law Society* introduced a bold new pilot project called the Family Law Access Centre, designed to assist individuals who fall into this gap “too rich for legal aid and too poor to hire a lawyer.” While this is a program for any individual in such circumstances, it is expected that during the pilot phase it will be offered for particular assistance in family law cases. In the past decade our Family Courts have seen an increasing number of people who do not have legal representation. This poses terrible challenges to ordinary people trying to navigate their way around a very complex legal system. The result is frequent delays and backlogs in the courts, as submissions have to be revised over and over again to meet the legal tests of relevance and evidence.

The Manitoba Law Society’s initiative works in the following way:

- Law Society staff will identify lawyers who would be willing to discount their fee in return for a guarantee that their fee would be completely covered, the Law Society will make that guarantee.

- Society staff meet with an applicant and determine an affordable schedule of payments.
- The applicant/client makes their payments to the Law Society.
- The Law Society directly pays the lawyer hired by the client.
- When the legal case is finished, the lawyer receives full payment from the Law Society.
- The client has a longer period to pay off their legal fees.

The program will operate for one year (starting intake will be early in 2010) as a pilot project and, if successful, will be expanded into other areas of law where people have trouble affording the legal help they need. Costs for advancing the funds to the lawyers



and program staffing will be provided by the Law Society—a Society that takes its responsibility for protecting the public interest seriously. The Manitoba Law Society is the first in Canada to conceive of and introduce such a program. Let us hope their colleagues across the country follow their initiative. Kudos to a history making Society that responds to complex problems with a flair

for innovation and a commitment to social justice. ☘

### Correction

The *Manitoba Update* in the September 2009 RESOLVE issue should have stated that *Rana Bokhari* and *Judy Kienas* were recipients of the 2008–2009 *Carolynne Boivin Bursary*.

## *Saskatchewan Update: The Missing & The Murdered: Don't Let Them Be Disposable*



by *Brenda Anderson, University of Regina*

In the summer of 2005, I was in Fort Qu'Appelle, a beautiful valley community east of Regina. I noticed a hand-made sign with the picture of a young woman and the word *Missing* written across the top. As I took in the details – her name, her age, and that she was from Standing Buffalo reserve – my dread feeling was “not another one.” In Saskatchewan, in Canada, this sort of sign has become all too familiar.

From there, my resolve grew to research the intersections of racism, sexism and colonialism to bring some understanding and change to what we already know: that brown-skinned women are at a higher risk of violence in Canadian society. In fact, this phenomenon some call femicide repeats itself in all colonized countries, as became evident through developing a class entitled *Missing Indigenous Women: A Global Perspective*.

Stories gathered by the Native Women's Association of Canada in the report *Voices of Our Sisters in Spirit 1* reveal that:

- over 520 cases of missing or murdered Aboriginal women have been reported in Canada
- if this were to be compared statistically to non-Aboriginal or Metis women, the number would be equivalent to 18,000 missing or murdered women
- of that number, over 44 percent have occurred in the last nine years
- most of these women are under the age of 30

In Saskatchewan, the *Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons (2007)* found that 70% of missing women's cases in Saskatchewan are suspected to involve foul play, while for men, the statistic is significantly lower at 21%.

The Canadian government was internationally chastised by the United Nations for neglecting

these alarming statistics. An investigation has been requested, with findings to be reported to the UN.

This situation cannot be pinned on one structure, as it involves all of us. The structure of our Canadian story needs reinterpretation. Violence against women gets played out when people feel disempowered. They will look for the weakest one to strike out against, the one they think no one will notice. Somehow,

we have learned that Aboriginal women are disposable, and that they won't be missed. What role do all Canadians play in changing this injustice? What is my role as a non-Aboriginal or Metis woman, a person who has benefitted greatly as part of the white-settler community in Saskatchewan? I believe it is to ensure that my privilege as a university professor is used to bring public awareness to this issue; to seek guidance and

leadership from Aboriginal women; to contribute to the ongoing development of a critical analysis of systemic racialized violence and ask hard questions of our media, our police and justice systems, and our government; and to envision a community that goes beyond the current racist and sexist boundaries that were created from Canada's colonialist heritage. It's a tall order, but it is critical if we are ever to hold our heads high as a civilized nation.

Oh, and the name of the woman missing in Fort Qu'Appelle? **Amber Redman**—I hope you've heard of her, and I hope you will remember her. ☘

*Brenda Anderson teaches Women's and Gender Studies and Religious Studies at Luther College, University of Regina, and sits on the RESOLVE Saskatchewan Steering Committee. She was co-chair of the international 2008 conference in Regina **Missing Women: Decolonization, Third Wave Feminisms & Indigenous People of Canada and Mexico**. Conference proceedings and further reflections will be published in Spring 2010. She is renewed and inspired by student commitment to gender and justice issues.*



*Brenda Anderson*

## Alberta Update



by Leslie M. Tutty

**W**e recently completed research entitled *'I Built My House of Hope': Best Practices to Safely House Abused and Homeless Women*, a collaboration of *The Alliance of the Research Centres on Violence (AFRCV)* and representatives from community agencies across Canada.

The project reviewed best practices to safely house abused and homeless women, assessing what models of emergency and second stage shelters best address women's housing and what strategies might better assist women who at high risk of becoming homeless to access safe, affordable and permanent housing. Secondly, we interviewed 62 women from across Canada who had been abused by partners and were homeless at some point. The women were asked for their perspectives on what is needed to more adequately provide housing for themselves and their children. The project recommendations stem from the environmental scan and the women's narratives.

This project focused on a group of women at the intersections of vulnerability. Abused and homeless women have experienced some of life's greatest challenges, including being the victims of child and partner abuse for which they bear no responsibility. The complexities of the issues for these women are overwhelming and the current institutional response is simply inadequate. We must find ways to effectively meet the urgent needs of these women to assist them to leave abusive partners and create safe new homes for themselves and their children. The women raised compelling questions and presented tragic stories. How can we better support them in their goals to create safe, adequate and long-term homes for themselves and their children?

The research advisory team for this project consisted of **Dr. Leslie Tutty**; **Cindy Ogden**, **Bianca Giurgiu**, and **Gillian Weaver-Dunlop**, all from *RESOLVE Alberta*; **Dr. Dominique Damant**, *CRI-VIFF, Université du Montréal*; **Dr. Wilfreda** (Billie) *University of Calgary*; **Dr. Helene Berman**, *University of Western Ontario*; **Dr. Carmen Gill**, *Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research, University of New Brunswick*; **Dr. Margaret Jackson**, *Simon Fraser University*; **Dr. Mary Hampton**, *University of Regina*; **Dr. E. Jane Ursel**, *Director, RESOLVE Manitoba*; **Diane Delaney**, *Provincial Association of Transition Houses, Regina*; **Pamela Harrison**, *Transition House Association of Nova Scotia*; **Shabna Ali** and **Jody Salerno**, *B.C./Yukon Society of Transition Houses*; **Andrea Silverstone**, *Peer Support Services for Abused Women*; **Linda White**, *Alliance to End Violence*; **Jean Dunbar**, *YWCA of Calgary, Sheriff King Home*; and **Carolyn Goard**, *Alberta Council of Women's Shelters*. Thanks to all for their input and insight. The report is available from Leslie Tutty at [tutty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tutty@ucalgary.ca).



Sabrina Gilani (left), *Healing Journey Research Assistant* and Lorraine Radtke, *Alberta Healing Journey Academic Coordinator*



### Other RESOLVE Alberta News

Two new research assistants are working with the Healing Journey project. **Jacqueline Warrell** has almost completed her Master of Education, Adult and Workplace Learning from the University of Calgary. Jacqueline is inputting qualitative interviews for the Healing Journey into the NVivo program and conducting the first level coding. **Sabrina Gilani** is completing her Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Nottingham, in the UK, and is analysing the SPSS data for the Alberta data for the Healing Journey. Both are very welcome! ☘

“Connect Family and...” cont’d from page 1



**CONNECT FAMILY AND SEXUAL ABUSE NETWORK**  
*Members of the Operations Development Committee*

Back Row (L to R): **Detective Guy Baker**; **Detective John Guigon**; **Staff Sergeant Curtis Olson**, Calgary Police Services

Middle Row (L to R): **Deb Tomlinson**, Project Manager; **Carolee Turner**, HomeFront; **Haley Scott**, Team Lead; **Heather Battle**, AB Health Services; **Laurie Siembida**, Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA); **Virginia Wheeler**, AB Health Services

Front Row (L to R): **Maggie MacKillop**, HomeFront; **Laura Woollard**, CCASA

Missing from photo: **Staff Sergeant Patty McCallum**, Calgary Police Services; **Ann MacKay**, AB Health Services; **Dr. Pauline Head**, AB Health Services; **Linda McCracken**, AB Health Services; **Corporal Kimberley Pasloske**, RCMP; **Paul Bartell**, Distress Centre of Calgary; **Susanna Shenfield**, Calgary Women’s Emergency Shelter

close working relationships among our multi-disciplinary partners.” Connect is a partnership between **Alliance to End Violence**; **Alberta Health Services Domestic**

**Violence and Sexual Assault Response Team**; **Awo Taan Healing Lodge**; **Calgary and area Child and Family Services**; **Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse**; **Calgary Police Services Domestic Conflict Unit and Sex Crimes Unit**; **Calgary Women’s Emergency Shelter**; **Distress Centre of Calgary**; **HomeFront**; the **Crown Prosecutor’s Office**; and **YWCA of Calgary and Area**.

Representatives from all of the partners make up the membership of the various committees, each of which plays an important role in the development of this new and evolving integrated and collaborative model of service delivery. The funders of Connect include **Alberta Children’s Services Community Incentive Fund**; **Alberta Law Foundation**; **Safe Communities Innovation Fund**; and the **United Way of Calgary and Area**. For more information on Connect Family and Sexual Abuse Network, please visit [www.connectnetwork.ca](http://www.connectnetwork.ca) or call toll free **1.877.237.5888**. All it takes is one call. ☎

## December 6

2009, marks the **20th anniversary** of the **Montreal Massacre** at École Polytechnique. Female engineering students in a classroom were separated from the male students, then gunned down by Marc Lépine. His rampage in the school continued and in less than twenty minutes fourteen women were dead and thirteen others injured (nine women and four men). The event spearheaded a Canadian movement for gun control, including the gun registry.

As we observe the 20th Anniversary of this tragedy, our current government is studying a private member’s bill to end the national gun registry. This Bill is provoking debate across the country. Be sure to let your Member of Parliament know your position on this issue.

To find the name of your Member of Parliament, enter your postal code online at [www2.parl.gc.ca/parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx](http://www2.parl.gc.ca/parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx).

## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



**January 24–29, 2010 - 24th San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment** presented by the Chadwick Center for Children & Families. The conference will be held in Conference information is available online at [www.chadwickcenter.org/conference.htm](http://www.chadwickcenter.org/conference.htm). For more information, contact Linda Wilson at [lkwilson@rchsd.org](mailto:lkwilson@rchsd.org) or (858) 966-4972.

**January 25–26, 2010 - 2nd Annual Strengthening Today, Building Tomorrow Conference** presented by the Alberta Association of Services for Children and Families. The workshop will be held at the Fantasyland Hotel. in Edmonton, Alberta. The conference is intended to strengthen member agencies and promote attitudes, practices and conditions that contribute to quality services for vulnerable children and families. Conference information is available at [www.aascf.com/Portals/0/2010conferencebrochure.pdf](http://www.aascf.com/Portals/0/2010conferencebrochure.pdf). For more information contact Laura Gadowsky at [gadowsky@telusplanet.net](mailto:gadowsky@telusplanet.net) or (780) 460-7740; or Rhonda Barraclough at [rbarraclough@aascf.com](mailto:rbarraclough@aascf.com) or (780) 428-3660.

**March 10–12, 2010 - 8th Annual Youth, Violence & Changing Times Training Conference** presented by the First Nations Training and Consulting Services. Sessions will be held at the Fairmont Empress in Victoria, British Columbia. Conference information is available at [www.firstpeoplescanada.com/YC2010%20Registration%20package.pdf](http://www.firstpeoplescanada.com/YC2010%20Registration%20package.pdf). For more information contact First Nations Training and Consulting Services at (250) 652-7097 or [admin@fntcs.com](mailto:admin@fntcs.com).

**March 22–25, 2010 - 26th National Symposium on Child Abuse** presented by the National Children's Advocacy Center. The event will be held at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama, USA. Symposium details are available at [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org), select the symposium link. For additional information, contact Marilyn Grundy at [mgrundy@nationalcac.org](mailto:mgrundy@nationalcac.org) or (256) 327-3863.



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## *Raymond F. Currie: Not a Retiring Man*



Raymond Currie joined the Board of Directors in 1999, two-years after Prairieaction Foundation was founded to support the work of RESOLVE. He is now retiring as a director after ten years of service, which includes one term as President.

Raymond is not a retiring man, although he is a retired professor of Sociology. He is also Dean Emeritus at the University of Manitoba, where he was the Dean of Arts (1991-1999).

In his autobiography *Secure and Uncertain: A Father's Story*, Raymond wrote "...when I retired from the University of Manitoba...I didn't have a clear plan...I did know what was important to me...to focus my service on volunteer boards in the community, and on making as useful a contribution to the community as I could."

The Board thanks Raymond for his decade of committed service and look forward to holding him to his promise of continuing to share his wisdom in the coming years. ☘



*Dr. Raymond Currie*

### **RESOLVE Manitoba**

*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~  
Director (Academic)*

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