

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

Agreement# 40063171

RESOLVE Research Day 2017

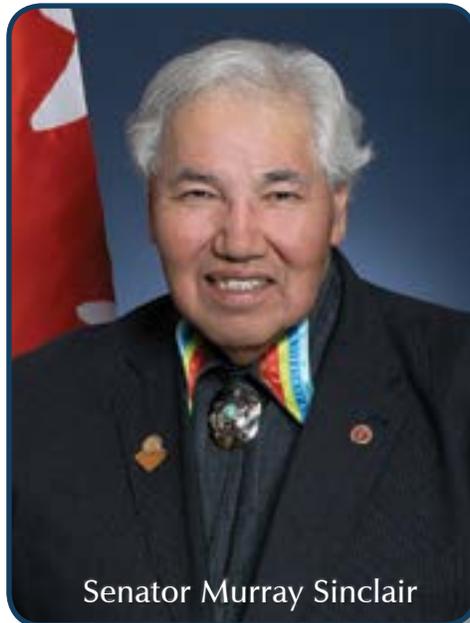


by Jane Ursel

The University of Manitoba will host *RESOLVE Research Day 2017* on October 20, and this year's conference theme is *Trauma Informed Treatment: Intervention and Prevention*. Over the last decade there has been an increased awareness among advocates and service providers that the issue of trauma is central to support for victims, children who witness domestic violence and for treatment programs for offenders. With the influx of refugees from war-torn countries, the national dialogue on the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the reality of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for paramedics and other frontline workers, Canadians are gaining awareness of the impact of trauma and the importance of trauma-informed interventions. This year our Research Day will feature three keynote speakers and a wide range of panels and concurrent sessions on trauma informed practice.

We are pleased to announce that one of our keynote speakers is **Senator Murray Sinclair**, who served the justice system in Manitoba for over 25 years. He was the first Indigenous Judge appointed in Manitoba, and Canada's second.

Senator Sinclair served as Co-Chair of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry in Manitoba and as Chief



Senator Murray Sinclair

Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). As head of the TRC, he participated in hundreds of hearings across Canada, culminating in the issuance of the TRC's report in 2015. Senator Sinclair has been invited to speak throughout Canada, the United States and internationally, including the Cambridge Lectures for members of the Judiciary of various Commonwealth Courts in England.

Senator Sinclair served as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Manitoba. He was very active within his profession

and his community and has won numerous awards, including the National Aboriginal Achievement Award (1994) and the Lifetime Achievement Award (2016) from Indspire, the Manitoba Bar Association's Equality Award (2001), and its Distinguished Service Award (2016), and has received Honorary

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Intimate Partner Violence in Rural and Northern Communities: A Canadian Perspective



by *Melissa Wuerch*

Statistics Canada (2013) indicates that among the provinces, Saskatchewan has the highest police reported rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) at 765 per 100,000 population. Approximately 33% Saskatchewan's population lives in rural and northern areas. The limited research that exists to describe the unique experiences of women in rural and northern areas suggests that they are exposed to significantly higher rates of psychological abuse, more severe physical violence, and are at increased risk for intimate partner homicide when compared to women who live in urban areas. Further, in comparison to 4.3% of the Canadian population, Indigenous peoples account for 15.6% of Saskatchewan's population, with roughly 53% living in geographically diverse regions across the province. Indigenous women are eight times more likely to be killed by an intimate partner when compared to non-Indigenous women, and are more likely to experience severe forms of violence and be subjected to ongoing violence upon separation from an intimate partner.

When considering the increased risk for IPV within rural and northern regions, of great concern are the significant barriers to service access, such as distance to the nearest formal service, limited transportation options, confidentiality and anonymity issues, maintenance of family unit pressures, social isolation, and minimal options for culturally-sensitive services. Resources and services provide IPV survivors with important emotional support and practical resources to enhance their safety, healing journey, autonomy, quality of life, and ability to sustain a life after leaving their abusive partner.

Expanding upon the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (CDHPVP; <http://cdhpi.ca/>), the purpose of my dissertation research is to improve understanding of programs, resources, and services being implemented, as well as the unique challenges service providers face when supporting IPV survivors in geographically diverse communities. Information



and stories collected across Canada will be examined, with a specific focus on Saskatchewan. Analyzing IPV through a broader lens—such as through community perceptions and cultural norms—is imperative to gain a comprehensive understanding of the responses to and needs of IPV survivors.

Improving resources for IPV survivors in rural and northern regions within Canada is essential to ensure that the

unique needs of this vulnerable population are met. The dissemination of my dissertation findings through presentations and peer-reviewed publications will help inform and improve the effectiveness of national services (e.g. access to resources, quality of services, culturally sensitive programs) and the allocation of funding. Presentations and in-depth discussions of the research implications with community based service providers, government-level representatives, and stakeholders will be vital.

The proposed investigation will be conducted with active collaboration from several partnership organizations across Canada (e.g. Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan [PATHS], Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children [CREVAWC], Native Women's Association of Canada, Canadian Women's Foundation). I am currently looking for interested individuals—frontline service providers, criminal justice professionals, elders, academic experts, etc.—to share knowledge and experience about risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning practices, as well as the unique challenges faced when working with any of the four populations identified as having increased vulnerability for domestic violence and homicide: Indigenous populations; immigrants and refugees; rural, remote, and northern populations; and children exposed to domestic violence.

If you or someone you know may be interested in participating in a phone interview, please contact me at mwuerch11@gmail.com or 519-982-5877 for more information. ☘

Manitoba Update: Carolynne Boivin Bursary Award Winner



by Jane Ursel

We are pleased to announce that **Jeanette Brazeau**, a graduate student in Social Work, is the recipient of the 2017 Carolynne Boivin Bursary. Ms. Brazeau's research interest is to study the impact of family violence on Indigenous adolescents through their personal stories in a holistic manner (spiritual, emotional, physical and mental). Working with adolescents identified as high risk, Jeanette observes that "many of them have been through more trauma than anyone should ever have to endure." They have shared their stories with her "which not only include their hardships, but their courage, bravery and



Jeanette Brazeau

strength." Ms. Brazeau's aim is "to utilize an Indigenous paradigm using qualitative methods consisting of Indigenous young adults' (over 18) narratives and photovoice to tell their personal stories of how their lives have been impacted emotionally, physically, spiritually and mentally by family violence." Jeanette believes that these personalized accounts "could provide profound and empathetic insight into their lived experiences."

Our congratulations to Jeanette Brazeau. She has chosen a very important field of research. The bursary Committee and RESOLVE look forward to the results of this timely and important study. ☘

Introducing Our Steering Committee Member: Susan Desjardine

by Cheryl Fraehlich



Susan Desjardine

Detective Sergeant Susan Desjardine is a self-described "military brat" whose family settled in Winnipeg in 1979 after frequent postings that included locations in Germany, the United States, and Canada. She is the Domestic Violence Coordinator for the Winnipeg Police Service and has devoted many years to addressing the issue of domestic violence and improving the safety of and service response to vulnerable populations.

Susan joined the Winnipeg Police Service in 1995 and during the span of her career she has worked in general patrol, community policing, Victim Services, Sex Crimes, Internet Child Exploitation, and Arrest Processing Units. She was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 2008 and was assigned to the Vulnerable Persons Coordinator position which oversaw cases involving the abuse of the elderly and persons with disabilities, mental illness, and cognitive impairment. Susan is in her third year as the Domestic

Violence Coordinator and among her many tasks, her day-to-day work involves making numerous presentations to the Winnipeg Police Service and multiple outside organizations to increase awareness about the complexities of domestic violence and partnering with many government departments and non-government agencies to improve the response to domestic violence cases. She is currently working on the development of a centralized Domestic Violence Unit which would see specific officers specialize in the intricacies of domestic violence. This specialized team would allow for stronger relationships with the victim, the abuser and Manitoba Justice.

Susan has been a member of the RESOLVE Manitoba Steering Committee since 2014 and has provided valuable feedback on our research initiatives and worked to facilitate this research. She is also actively involved in other multi-agency committees that include the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee, Domestic Violence Correctional High Risk Offender Unit (COHROU), Domestic Violence Support Services, and Interpersonal Violence and Technology Conference Committee. Somehow, Susan also manages to find the time to serve as a woman leader on two projects funded by Status of Women Canada to help advance gender equality. These include a three year project with Ending Violence Across Manitoba (EVA) and Willow Place to improve the service response and system practices for high risk domestic violence cases, and women and children fleeing domestic violence. Susan's tireless work and inspiring leadership have made an important contribution to our city and province. ☘

Saskatchewan Update



Introducing Our Steering Committee Member: Marilyn Andrews

Marilyn Andrews is the data librarian in Spatial and Numeric Data Services and a liaison librarian at the University of Regina. Unlike most of her peers, Marilyn decided at an early age to pursue a career in librarianship, though she had no inkling of what this would entail. Nevertheless, she stayed the course and has never regretted her choice.

After graduating from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Marilyn headed east to Dalhousie University, where she completed her Master in Library Service degree. She had the good fortune of returning to the University of Regina where she commenced her career in what was then called the Library Archives. Subsequently, she moved to the position of science reference librarian before landing in the government publications section. Government publications was where Marilyn found her true niche and she remained there for nearly twenty years.

However, along the way, academic research data crept into her position responsibilities. This began with a telephone call from someone in Toronto asking if she could tell them where the 9-track magnetic tapes of the 1986 Census of Canada data files were located. The answer was easy; they were in boxes in Marilyn's office. The tapes were acquired (without her knowledge) through a library consortial purchase agreement and were then directed her way because they contained government information. Additionally, the researcher had to know SPSS, a statistical software package.

This was just the beginning, as new regional and national data consortiums were formed to enable Canadian universities to unite researchers with microdata. Most notably was the Census of Canada 1986, but also vast quantities of data available from the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) data archive. Most importantly were Statistics Canada surveys including, ex., the Violence Against Women Survey, the General Social Survey and the National Population Health Survey.

After the University of Regina joined the ICPSR and the Statistics Canada Data Liberation Initiative (DLI), the proverbial floodgates opened and researchers

from all disciplines were deluged with microdata (ASCII). These data provided them with the ability to access public-use primary data files for the purpose of secondary analysis.

Marilyn has proudly represented the University of Regina as the Official Representative to the ICPSR (and a member of ICPSR Council from 2011-2015) and the DLI Official Contact. She has also been an active member holding a variety of positions in the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST).

Being a data librarian is a humbling experience. Although Marilyn has learned and grown immensely in the position, the learning never ends. She is grateful for the supportive and generous data community in which she works.

Most of all, Marilyn enjoys meeting and working with the University of Regina community. It is a privilege to learn about fascinating and vital work being carried out by the many and varied researchers.

Marilyn was honoured when invited to join the Resolve Saskatchewan steering committee and hopes that her contributions are beneficial. ❀



Marilyn Andrews & Monty

Alberta Update: I Believe You: Three Simple Words that Can Heal and End Sexual Assault



by Deb Tomlinson, MSW, RSW and CEO Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services

What if survivors of sexual assault felt safe and comfortable telling a friend or family member about what happened to them? What if they felt confident that they would not be shamed or blamed? What if they knew that they would be believed? What if their friends and family encouraged them to seek help to recover from the trauma they had experienced? What if their friends and family directed them to a place where they could consider their options and make an informed choice about seeking justice?

This was the vision that the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS) had two years ago when they conceived “I Believe You”—a province-wide public awareness campaign aimed at educating Albertans how very important it is to give a positive response to a disclosure of sexual assault. After 40+ years of observing the negative effects of secrecy and silence on survivors of sexual assault and buoyed by the grassroots social media campaign **#beenrapedneverreported**, the sexual assault centres in Alberta set out to shift dominant culture, away from doubting and judging survivors, and towards believing.

With support from the Government of Alberta, AASAS partnered with Cause & Effect Marketing of Calgary and Infinity Communications of Oakville, both well-respected marketing agencies, and executed a multi-layered four-year campaign to include research, media relations/editorial, PSA/advertising, digital platforms, and social engagement.

In its first year, the campaign focused on helping the public understand that believing as a first step is the key to opening the door to healing and ending sexual assault. We invited people to think about the important relationships in their lives and the important roles people play in supporting their friends, family and loved ones. We showcased close personal relationships where trust,



loyalty, support and compassion prevail. Relationships like “best friends forever”; “bro’s for life”; “mother/son”; “father/daughter”.

A father to his daughter:

“I believed you when you said you would always be my little girl. And I believe you now.”

“When my daughter, told me she had been sexually assaulted, I said the three words she most needed to hear. I believe you.”

Survivors who get a positive response when they tell someone are more likely to get help and seek justice.

Believing is a powerful defense against sexual assault. Who will you tell?”

We stressed throughout the campaign that we’re not inviting responders to play judge and jury. Many responders feel like they need “the facts” before they can respond by believing. They feel they need to determine guilt or innocence. We want to let the public know that’s not the role of friends or family—that is for our justice system to decide and currently only 5% of sexual assault survivors in Canada access the criminal justice system. We fully support due diligence and due process however we feel the best first step toward discovering truth and finding justice is to start by believing.

Early on, AASAS forged partnerships with all post-secondary institutions in Alberta and we believe that this was instrumental in the future success of the campaign. Matching post secondary institutions with their local sexual assault centres and using social media as a tool for change, **#ibelieveyou** began to sweep across Alberta. The total online reach of the campaign last year was 6,464,395. Corporate media support and generous sponsorships resulted in **I Believe You** billboards and entire **I Believe You** C-trains and buses

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Brenda Reynolds

Doctorates from over ten Canadian universities. Senator Sinclair was appointed to the Senate on April 2, 2016.

Another keynote speaker, **Brenda Reynolds**, whose Indigenous heritage is Saulteaux, was the trauma

specialist for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Her early experience as a social worker—working with students at Gordon’s Indian Residential School—led to the first litigated case of sexual abuse involving an Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan. The Gordon’s experience was the beginning of a challenging career—working with the impacts of Indian Residential Schools.

Ms. Reynolds has 14 years of child–protection experience and has worked with many First Nations, as well as provincial and federal government departments. Her wide–ranging experience has included working as a frontline worker conducting investigations and she negotiated a majority of the Alberta Child Welfare Agreements. In 1992, Ms Reynolds was awarded the Social Worker of the Year by the Alberta Foster Parent Association. She was lead Alberta Regional Coordinator for the Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program and the liaison for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Health Canada. Ms Reynolds developed the initial program for health support workers who provided support to former Indian Residential School survivors. She has a Bachelor of Indian Social Work and a Masters in Counselling Psychology and is currently working on a PhD at the University of Alberta.

Our third featured speaker is **Dr. Lori Wilkinson**, an internationally renowned researcher in the field of immigration and refugee policy. She specializes in studies of racism, settlement and health among refugees and immigrants. Recently back from Armenia and Israel, her current work examines the multiple traumas of refugees fleeing war-torn countries. Dr. Wilkinson is the Editor

of The Journal of International Migration and Integration and the Director of Immigration Research West. She is a professor of Sociology at the University of Manitoba, and has been a visiting fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford U.K., as well as a visiting professor at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. Dr. Wilkinson will be organizing and speaking on a panel of experts on the issue of Trauma and the Refugee Experience. She is also assisting our Research Day Committee in organizing a session on Trauma Informed Practice working with Refugees with PTSD.

We will hold a dessert reception on October 19, at 7 PM, at the University of Manitoba’s University Centre, second floor (Russell room) for greetings from community leaders in Winnipeg and the presentation of the 2017 RESOLVE Awards for outstanding service providers in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Join us in celebrating these wonderful people and their distinguished contribution to creating homes and communities safe from interpersonal violence and abuse.

Research Day—October 20—begins with registration at 8:30 am and a keynote address at 9:00am in the Multipurpose Room on the second floor of University Centre. Check our website for details of the day’s program. Registration is \$35 per person, which includes all speakers and events—including coffee breaks and lunch. Students, agency volunteers and clients are free and agencies who register and pay for three staff can send as many more as they like for free.

For more information refer online to umanitoba.ca/centres/resolve/news/research_days/index.html. We look forward to seeing you! ☘



Lori Wilkinson

Announcements, Conferences and Events



October 18 – 19, 2017 - Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Conference, in London, ON. This event is hosted by the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations. This conference is intended for policy makers, mental health, justice and social service professionals involved in the prevention, assessment, management, and safety planning for domestic violence and domestic homicide, particularly those who work with Indigenous, rural, remote, northern, immigrant and refugee populations, and children exposed to domestic violence. Early-bird registration is available before June 1, 2017.

For more information, refer online to www.cdhipi.ca/canadian-domestic-homicide-prevention-conference.

October 19 – 20, 2017 - RESOLVE Research Day 2017: Trauma Informed Treatment—Intervention & Prevention, at the University of Manitoba. A dessert reception will be held from 7-9 PM on October 19, where the 2017 RESOLVE Awards will be presented. Registration is at 8:30 AM on October 20. Featured speakers are Senator Murray Sinclair, Brenda Reynolds, and Dr. Lori Wilkinson. Refer online to umanitoba.ca/centres/resolve/news/research_index.html for more information.



November 16 – 17, 2017 - Family Wellness Conference: Hope & Harmony, at the Saskatoon Inn in Saskatoon, SK. Proudly sponsored by TFHQ Safe Shelters Inc., FHQ Tribal Council, and Okanese 82. Special guests are Dr. Gabor Mate, Susan Aglukark, and Dr. Sharon Acoose. Early registration is \$325 until September 1, 2017. Late registration is \$375. For more information contact [Frances Montgrand](mailto:Frances.Montgrand@tfhq.ca) at **306-332-1369**.

November 16 – 17, 2017 - 17th Annual Diverse Voices Family Violence Conference at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton, AB. Early-bird deadline is October 18, 2017. For more information refer online to www.diverse-voices.com.

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in Edmonton and Calgary.

Best of all, we know we are making a difference. Pre-campaign, we asked for a poll of 1,000 Albertans and asked them what they would say if someone disclosed sexual assault to them. Of those who said they would know what to say to a sexual assault survivor, the number who would give a positive response (I'm sorry that happened, it's not your fault) went up from 21% to 66%. Respondents who would use the specific phrase "I believe you" increased by 1% to 12%. And we were excited to discover that this year, reports of sexual assault to police in Calgary increased by 20%, and Calgary Police Service pointed to **#Ibelieveyou** as a contributing factor.

One of our proudest moments so far, was when the AASAS "**I Believe You**" campaign was selected as a finalist for the 2016 North American Sabre Awards—Superior Achievement in Measurement and Evaluation. AASAS was singled out from 300 campaigns and 2000 entries across North America and was up against competitors such as the Michael J Fox Foundation and the American Heart Foundation. And we won!

But we are not finished yet – we have two more years of the campaign to complete. This year, we will ask Albertans to contribute through social media, a picture; message or post to a province-wide "**I Believe You**" digital mosaic. Albertans will be able to watch the digital mosaic fill with supportive messages throughout the life of the campaign. With the help of our committed partners, 28 post-secondary campuses in Alberta, Pattison, Bell and Corus/Shaw, we will make sure that Albertans understand the power of an "**I Believe You**" response. ☘

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@umanitoba.ca



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Premature Farewell

In our last newsletter we bade farewell to Dr. Jane Ursel, who was scheduled to retire from her role as Director of Resolve on June 30, 2017. Unfortunately, the search for a new Director was not successful. Jane, however, has graciously agreed to serve as Acting Director until June 30, 2018. ❀

RESOLVE Manitoba

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

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO: 40063171
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

**108 Isbister Building
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2**
Ph: (204) 474-8965 Fax: (204) 474-7686
E-mail: resolve@umanitoba.ca
Website: www.umanitoba.ca/resolve

RESOLVE Saskatchewan

*~ Dr. Mary Hampton ~
Academic Research Coordinator*

**LC 210, Luther College
University of Regina
Regina, SK S4S 0A2**
Ph: (306) 337-2511 Fax: (306) 585-5267
E-mail: resolve@uregina.ca
Website: www.uregina.ca/resolve

RESOLVE Alberta

*~ Dr. Nicole Letourneau ~
Director (RESOLVE Alberta)*

**PF 2282
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4**
Ph: (403) 220-8181 Fax: (403) 210-8117
E-mail: resolve@ucalgary.ca