



*"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

"Once 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

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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. ❧

* *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

For 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

We 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.



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 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.

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. For more information, contact Linda Wilson at 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. For more information contact Laura Gadowsky at gadowsky@telusplanet.net or (780) 460-7740; or Rhonda Barraclough at 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. For more information contact First Nations Training and Consulting Services at (250) 652-7097 or 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, select the symposium link. For additional information, contact Marilyn Grundy at 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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