



*"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



Violence 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".

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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



The 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

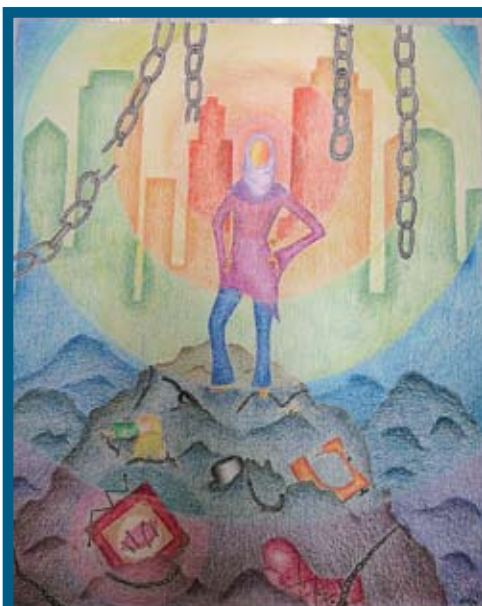


by Brenda Anderson

Recent 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

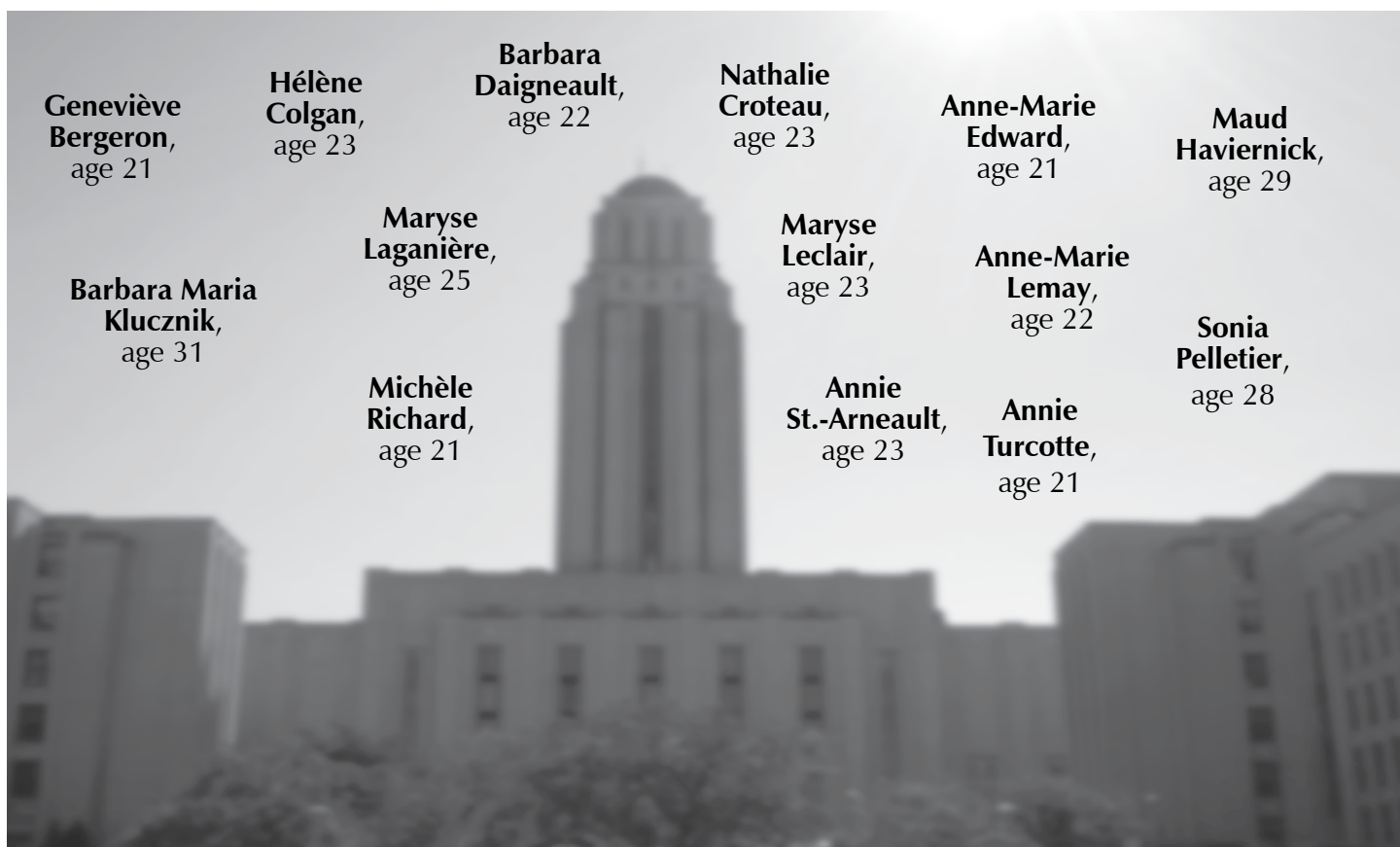
Grade XII student at Campbell Collegiate High School, 2011

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: 22nd Anniversary

**Geneviève
Bergeron,**
age 21

**Hélène
Colgan,**
age 23

**Barbara
Daigneault,**
age 22

**Nathalie
Croteau,**
age 23

**Anne-Marie
Edward,**
age 21

**Maud
Haviernick,**
age 29

**Barbara Maria
Klucznik,**
age 31

**Maryse
Laganière,**
age 25

**Maryse
Leclair,**
age 23

**Anne-Marie
Lemay,**
age 22

**Sonia
Pelletier,**
age 28

**Michèle
Richard,**
age 21

**Annie
St.-Arneault,**
age 23

**Annie
Turcotte,**
age 21

"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/

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

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

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(1.855.672.6727)

E-mail: mrc@mens-resource-centre.ca

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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, or e-mail 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, or call 1-202-543-5566.



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

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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, or contact **Kirsten Parker**, *Foundation Coordinator*, at kirsten@prairieaction.ca. ☼

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

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