



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

Agreement# 40063171

Why Do We Offer Cloth and Tobacco to Aboriginal Elders?



by Mary Hampton and Elder Betty McKenna

In 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

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



by Cheryl Fraehlich

Each 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.

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

Two 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.

The 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. 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.

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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, or contact **Shannon Holcomb** at **416-972-1935**, extension **3340**; or e-mail sholcomb@hincksdellcrest.org or 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.

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 or e-mail 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, call **905-790-0808**, or e-mail 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, call **705-749-6145**, or e-mail gt@cast-canada.ca.



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

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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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