



RESOLVE *news*

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOR SOLUTIONS
TO VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

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"Building the smallest democracies at the heart of society."

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

Agreement# 1472364

The Process of Violence Intervention



By Cheryl Laurie

The focus of this issue of *RESOLVEnews* is "intervention as a process". In our cover story we look at the issue of reluctant witnesses in domestic violence cases, where we see that leaving an abusive relationship is a process that often involves several attempts and can entail repeated contacts between the victim and the justice system. Of course the ideal situation would be to prevent difficulties in relationships from escalating to violent encounters, which is the goal of the Winnipeg Police Service's new *Family Violence Intervention Teams* covered in this issue. Also discussed in this volume are school violence prevention initiatives reported by our Alberta and Saskatchewan centres, as well as *Ndaawin/Our Place*, an early intervention program designed to prevent the sexual exploitation of youth.



Historic Law Courts Building, Winnipeg

Reluctant Witnesses in Domestic Violence Cases



We frequently hear the question, "Why do they stay?" referring to women who remain in abusive situations. Those who work on a daily basis with victims in these circumstances understand the enormous difficulties faced by those who are attempting to free their lives of further violence and abuse. Crown prosecutors in Winnipeg's specialized Family Violence Court regularly face reluctant witnesses and deal first-hand with the reality that initial intervention efforts often are just the beginning of a long process. When asked what reasons are given by victim witnesses for their reluctance to testify, family violence court prosecutors agreed that numerous reasons are stated. Among the more common ones (in no particular order and often in combination) are guilt, shame, their love for the accused, fear of reprisal, financial need, and pressure from family and friends.

Crown attorneys interviewed stated that they had a great deal of experience prosecuting cases where previous charges against that same accused were stayed as a result of the victim recanting their statement. This situation is commonplace, described as being the nature of the work in domestic violence prosecutions. Repeat cases are taken very seriously because the cycle of violence is clearly established in these instances and as such, the safety of the victim is of paramount importance to Family Violence Court prosecutors. As Crown Attorney Michele Jules explains, clients are given positive reinforcement for engaging the justice system in the first place, and are encouraged to do so again. Furthermore, she states, "safety planning is discussed, they are always encouraged to access counselling agencies in the community and if I have further safety concerns I call in a Women's Advocacy worker to assist. I also warn them of the likelihood of re-involvement given the message they have just sent to the accused by not following through".

(story continued on page 6)

What's Inside...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 2. <i>Prairieaction Update</i> | 6. <i>Early Intervention Programs:</i> |
| 3. <i>RESOLVE MB Update</i> | ~ <i>Family Violence Prevention Teams</i> |
| 4. <i>RESOLVE SK Update</i> | ~ <i>Ndaawin/Our Place</i> |
| 5. <i>RESOLVE AB Update</i> | 7. <i>Announcements/Conferences</i> |
| | 8. <i>Conferences (cont'd)</i> |

Prairieaction Foundation Update



Big Changes at PAF

The year 2001 brought significant changes to the leadership team of the Prairieaction Foundation. With Sharon Carstairs' departure as President, our Vice President, Dr. Raymond Currie took over late last fall. Raymond brings with him a wealth of experience in both academic and non-profit organizations, as well as a keen interest in community-based research. Many of you may remember that as Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Manitoba, Raymond was an extremely strong supporter of RESOLVE. We're very happy that this support has continued in his new role with PAF.



Photo: Bob Talbot, Imaging Services

Dr. Raymond Currie



Dr. Lee Tunstall

Barbara Burggraf also left after three highly successful years as PAF's first Executive Director. The search for a new Executive Director was held in January and we are happy to announce that Dr. Lee Tunstall took on the position as of March 15, 2001.

Lee comes to us from the Institute for Gender Research at the University of Calgary, where she was the Coordinator. She also has been acquainted with RESOLVE's and PAF's activities for quite some time, sitting on the RESOLVE Alberta Steering Committee and collaborating with PAF on the "Un-gendering

Violence" event held in Calgary last October. Lee also brings a strong commitment to community-academic partnerships with her, as well as a strong interest in medieval Spanish nuns (her Ph.D. thesis topic!). We're very pleased to welcome both Raymond and Lee and look forward to working with them to build on PAF's strong legacy and move our vision forward.

Donor Profile: TransCanada PipeLines



TransCanada's community investment program seeks to identify and forge meaningful partnerships with not-for-profit organizations in Canadian communities along its pipeline and power network. The community investment program places a particular emphasis on education, environment, health and human

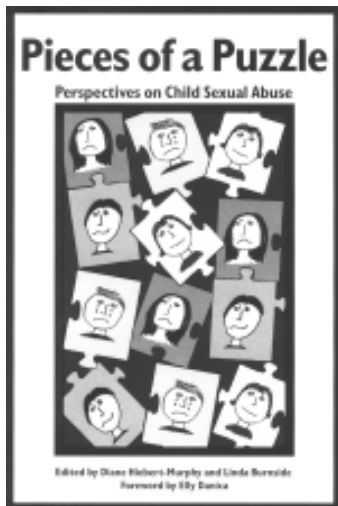


TransCanada

In business to deliver™

services. "One of the top priorities of TransCanada's community investment program is to improve the quality of life for the people who live in the communities where we do business," comments Robert Day, Senior Vice President, Public Sector Relations. TransCanada was an early and strong supporter of the Prairieaction Foundation's endowment fund. "The Prairieaction Foundation is an exceptional organization that searches for innovative solutions to societal challenges and we are proud to play a role in supporting their programs. We rely on the energy and enthusiasm of people in local communities to bring community investment initiatives and programs to life," says Robert.

RESOLVE Manitoba Update



Diane Hiebert-Murphy and Linda Burnside

Pieces of a Puzzle: Perspectives on Child Sexual Abuse edited by Diane Hiebert-Murphy and Linda Burnside is the second in the Hurting and Healing Series of

books co-published by RESOLVE and Fernwood Publishing. On May 3 RESOLVE board members, staff and friends of the editors and contributors gathered at McNally Robinson Booksellers for the launch of this important volume. The event was a huge success, with approximately 120 people in attendance. The Honourable Diane McGifford gave a talk commending the importance of the community-academic research collaboration that is at the core of this series on intimate violence. *Pieces of a Puzzle* presents a collection of work by Canadian writers and offers a

comprehensive understanding of contemporary research on child sexual abuse.

“Through our interactions with clients in both research and practice settings, it is evident that addressing child sexual abuse is an extremely challenging task. This volume provides an opportunity to examine some of the components of this complex problem, helping us to understand the issues more fully and consider the problem of child sexual abuse from different perspectives. The various contributors discuss research and practice related to children, nonoffending mothers, offenders, families, the criminal justice system and prevention, and suggest new directions for future intervention and research.”

~ Diane Hiebert-Murphy and Linda Burnside, editors.

Pieces of a Puzzle is available at McNally Robinson Booksellers. Also be sure to look for the first book in the series: *No Place for Violence: Canadian Aboriginal Alternatives*, edited by Jocelyn Proulx and Sharon Perrault. We are looking forward to the Spring 2002 release of the third volume in the series, *Women Abused by Intimate Partners: Challenges and Solutions*, edited by Leslie Tutty and Carolyn Goard.

RESOLVE Manitoba hosts Members of the Alliance of Five Research Centres



by Kelly Gorkoff

On January 25 to 27th, RESOLVE Manitoba was host to members of the Alliance of Five Research Centres on Family Violence and Violence against Women. The Alliance includes researchers and academics from five Canadian research centres located in British Columbia, the Prairies, Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick. The group was comprised of a range of researchers and academics from nursing, psychology, sociology, and law as well as community representatives from groups such as Justice For Girls, London Sexual Assault Centre, and the Vancouver Alliance against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Girls. Representatives from Status of Women Canada also took part in the meetings. The group met for three days to discuss ongoing research projects focussed on *Violence Prevention and the Girl Child*. Although the projects were diverse, there were striking similarities in the research findings. Themes included the normalization of violence in the lives of girls, the inter-sectionality of power, and individual as well as systemic violence. These themes, as well as policy recommendations, will be discussed in a report titled *“In the Best Interests of the Girl Child?”*, which will be presented to Status of Women Canada in the summer of 2001.



Elly Black and Holly Johnson

During the research meeting, one morning was reserved for presentation and feedback on a collaborative project between Status of Women Canada and Statistics Canada. Representatives Holly Johnson and Elly Black presented work on a discussion document titled: *Charting Progress on Violence Against Women in Canada: A Discussion Document for Developing Statistical Indicators*. The indicators are being designed to provide a readily accessible portrait of women’s experiences of violence analyzed within a broad social context. The indicators are designed to be used in conjunction with other information to reflect on the impact and development of legislation, policies, programs, and services related to violence against women. RESOLVE staff, board members, and interested community partners attended this presentation to provide feedback.

RESOLVE Saskatchewan Update



By Lauren Eisler

RESOLVE Saskatchewan is currently at work on the creation of a policy and procedures manual dealing with the roles and responsibilities of the Academic Coordinator, the Community Research Development Coordinator and the Steering Committee. The development of this manual will ensure that all members of RESOLVE Saskatchewan will clearly understand both the mission and the mandate of our organization. Our goal is to complete the manual over the summer months.

As we are aware, one of the primary goals of this organization is the fostering of relationships between community organizations and universities. We strongly believe that one of the most important elements to the success of this goal is our Steering Committee who provide guidance and support to both the Academic Coordinator and the Community Research Development Coordinator. Lorrie and I both feel strongly that we are fortunate to be working with a committee that is made up of a group of committed individuals who represent a number of diverse organizations that have, as a common goal, an interest in the issue of violence against girls and women. We would also like to take the opportunity over the next few newsletters to introduce the members of our current steering committee.

Saskatchewan Community Profile: Shannon Dobko



Shannon Dobko is the Catalyst/Facilitator for Prevention Programming for Saskatoon Shared Services with the Department of Education. Her role includes becoming familiar with quality Prevention Programs, to critique programs relative to their strengths, weaknesses, economic value and outcomes. As well, Shannon provides professional development relative to

available programs and their applications, and works to develop programs to meet specific prevention needs and/or generic needs. In addition, she facilitates/coordinates the implementation of appropriate prevention programs that are targeted into the schools. Shannon also works on an individual case referral basis. These referrals may include assessments, program development, mediation, and behavioral program development. She also acts as a case coordinator with Health, Education, Social Services and Mental Health.



Women's Studies Research Unit hosts Conference

The Women's Studies Research Unit, University of Saskatchewan is hosting *The Lived Environments of Girls and Women: An Interdisciplinary Conference* at the Delta Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon, July 4-7 2001. The Women's Studies Research Unit encourages support for the interdisciplinary work of scholars, activists, artists and others who are addressing pressing issues that concern the lives of girls and women. Threaded throughout the conference tapestry will be themes that focus on gendered research contributing to the local and global, social and natural, controlled and controlling environments. The keynote speakers will open inquiry into how environments can withstand the cumulative internal and external influences that shape and influence all aspects of our lives. The intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, class, age, mobility, and ability will unite these topics into a cohesive and comprehensive focus for identifying and rethinking possibilities for action.

For more information please contact Marie Green, Executive Director, The Women's Studies Research Unit at (306) 966-7524, fax (306) 966-2141, or email marie.green@usask.ca.

RESOLVE Alberta Update



Community Agency Profiles

❖ **The Violence Information & Education Centre (VIEC)** is a relatively new resource centre for service providers in Calgary. Our official opening was November 1997 and we became a fully functioning library in February 1999. VIEC's intended users include service providers in the domestic violence field as well as other fields such as education, health, libraries and justice. VIEC aims to provide resources and information services related to domestic violence to any professional whose clients are affected by violence. If anyone would like more information about VIEC, please contact Barb MacDonald at (403) 209-3129 or viiec@cadvision.com.

❖ **The Comprehensive Family Violence Initiative (CFVI)** of Drayton Valley is a family violence prevention initiative that involves concerned community members in facilitating the men's, women's, and adolescent groups. A team including a therapist and a front-line worker from the community directs the psycho-educational groups. We also work with home-school liaison workers, teachers, and a psychiatric nurse. The groups are run as a psycho-educational group modeled on a combination of the Duluth model and a program designed by Anne-Marie Dewhurst and Karen Neilsen of Edmonton. If anyone would like more information, please contact Rita Dillon (780) 542-6702 or fax (780) 621-1884.



Developing a Resource Manual of Evidence-based Best Practices in Gendered School-Based Violence Prevention Programs

RESOLVE Alberta recently received a grant from the Crime Prevention Partnership Program of the Department of Justice Canada for \$55,000. The project will develop a resource manual for school and community agency personnel presenting a model of violence prevention programs and a compendium of evidence-based best practices in school violence prevention programs relevant to preventing crimes against girls and young women. The resource manual will assist schools and community agencies in making informed choices about prevention programs that impact crimes against girls and women. This project is in partnership with RESOLVE Saskatchewan, RESOLVE Manitoba, and various community agencies within Alberta. The resource manual would be available both in hard copy and in downloadable form from the Internet.

Research Project Team:

Cathryn Bradshaw has been hired as the Project Coordinator and will work closely with the project team. The project team is interdisciplinary including members from social work, sociology, psychology and community health. Together the team members have exceptional backgrounds relevant to assessing violence prevention programs aimed at girls and women. Several members have worked in the field of violence prevention for over a decade and have developed a number of important products such as books, reviews of prevention projects, curriculum for prevention programs and measures to evaluate prevention programs. Project team members include:

Alberta: Leslie Tutty, Kendra Nixon, Wilfreda Thurston, Lynn Meadows, Lee Tunstall, Debra Tomlinson, Doris Toy-Pries, David Este, Marg MacDonald

Saskatchewan: Lorrie Sippola

Manitoba: Sharon Perrault, Jocelyn Proulx, Wendy Josephson

An advisory team will be developed with representatives from across Canada, who have expertise in youth prevention programs but are not involved in the current project. The advisory committee will ensure that the project team is fulfilling the proposed project goals from a more objective perspective.

Over the past several decades, a myriad of violence prevention programs have been developed and marketed. However, only a portion of school-based prevention programs focus on gendered violence as compared to general violence. Even programs about dating violence have tended to emphasize violence perpetrated by both females and males, although current research suggest that girls more often experience serious consequences from physical violence and sexual assaults. Prevention programs that focus on sexual assault, child sexual abuse and exploitation through prostitution are offered much less often. They are rarely included in discussions of and compendiums of prevention programs available for schools, even though research has clarified that the consequences of such victimization are serious. The proposed resource manual would seek programs that more holistically address violence towards girls and young women. Violence prevention programs are typically delivered to children and youth of both genders. Researchers have questioned whether this approach works best, or whether separate gender groups might be preferable. This is a further area that would be addressed in the search for best practices.

Few school personnel have the background to assess what characterizes best practices in prevention programs or to interpret evaluation or research results that may be presented. Assisting schools and community agencies to make better-informed choices about prevention programs will ultimately assist girls and young women.

(continued on page 7)

Reluctant Witnesses

...(cont'd from page 1)

"Many victims will suffer violence at the hands of the accused for a lifetime and never testify in court, some I suspect may never even call police. Other women may, after 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, decide to leave the abusive relationship and obtain the help and support they need to proceed to testify in court against the accused."

~ Melinda Murray, Crown Attorney



Although each situation is unique and must be handled according to the strength of the case, Crown attorneys generally do not proceed with charges against the victim for failing to appear, as they take the position of trying to avoid revictimizing the victim. It is believed that victims dealing with a specialized court that is sensitive to the dynamics of domestic violence, in conjunction with the support of appropriate community services, will stand a far better chance of safely and successfully negotiating any future instances of violence in their lives.

Early Intervention Programs



Family Violence Intervention Teams

Winnipeg's Family Violence Intervention Teams have been very busy since the start-up of this pilot project that pairs specially trained police officers with social workers. A collaborative venture between the Winnipeg Police Service and the Community Services Department, the program was developed after reviewing existing programs of this nature in Canada and the U.S. Among the goals of this initiative are to identify families in conflict from police calls for service; to connect families at risk of potential violence to appropriate community resources; to provide assessment and intervention by providing short-term counselling, advocacy and emotional support; to assist with the development of safety plans; and to reduce the number of domestic violence incidents in the city. Winnipeg's program is unique because of its proactive approach where the teams step in before any arrests are made, thereby reducing the chance that conflicts will escalate to crisis levels.

Karen Mitchell, Administrative Coordinator of Social Support and Development with the Community Services Department, informed us of the many activities the teams have been involved in since the project began on February 12. The teams have met with various community agencies to introduce themselves and to explore how they might best work together, they have learned about services offered for both victims and perpetrators of family violence, and have developed an assessment tool for identifying high-risk situations for intervention. In addition, they have listened in on 911 calls, have gone on ride-alongs of domestic violence calls and have attended court proceedings to gain an understanding of the nature and extent of the problem. Training is ongoing and the teams are expected to be in full swing handling their caseload as of the latter part of May. Upcoming issues of *RESOLVEnews* will continue to report on the teams' progress and the reaction of the people they come into contact with.

Ndaawin / Our Place

Sexual exploitation of children through prostitution is a complex problem that is overwhelmingly inter-connected with other serious issues such as physical and sexual abuse, poverty, neglect and racism. New Directions for Children, Youth and Families is a large multi-service agency in Winnipeg that has recently established a multi-faceted prevention program which targets youth 8 to 13 years old. Recognizing the complexity of the issue of the sexual exploitation of children and the importance of a community-based approach to the problem, the *Ndaawin/Our Place* pilot project was developed with five components, each focusing on key aspects of child victimization: 1) The development of an assessment tool so that community partners can identify risk factors of victimization. This tool will be developed by a partnership group including parents, experiential people and youth; 2) Establishment of a response team to provide immediate support and intervention with at-risk children; 3) Development of a prevention curriculum and encouragement for schools to participate in programming focused on this issue; 4) Establishment of a peer counsellor team that will introduce youth to the project and will conduct various types of culturally relevant activities; and 5) Establishment of a parent support group for parents raising children in the types of difficult circumstances which can place children at high risk of entering prostitution. *RESOLVE* Manitoba, in association with *CS/RESORS Consulting* of Vancouver has been selected to conduct an evaluation of the *Ndaawin/Our Place* project over its first three years. Lessons learned from community-based projects such as this will be invaluable for the design and implementation of other projects across the country. We will keep you abreast of updates on the program and its evaluation in future issues of our newsletter.



Announcements



Dr. Lorrie Sippola

As of July 1 Lorrie Sippola will have completed a two-year term as the Academic Research Coordinator of RESOLVE Saskatchewan. During her two years Lorrie has hosted a number of regional council meetings, launched a Research Day tradition and did the lion's share of work in the development of a policy manual for RESOLVE members. All of us within the RESOLVE network would like to thank her for the hard work and dedication she has given to the organization. We will continue to work closely with Lorrie in her capacity as member of the Saskatchewan Steering Committee.

Lauren Eisler is also completing her two year term as Community Research Development Coordinator for RESOLVE Saskatchewan. We thank her for her lively submissions to our newsletter and her hard work for our organization. Lauren is focusing on completing her Ph.D. in Sociology and looking forward to an active academic career.



Lauren Eisler

Congratulations to RESOLVE Research Associate Kelly Gorkoff and her husband Paul on the arrival of their second child, Mara. The proud parents took the opportunity of introducing their beautiful baby girl to friends and colleagues at the recent "Pieces of a Puzzle" book launch.



Web Scan

- ❖ An interesting new organization, the Canadian Initiative on Workplace Violence, launched its website on April 2, 2001: www.workplaceviolence.ca.
- ❖ For a great introduction to research into violence and abuse prevention, take a look at Health Canada's National Clearinghouse on Family Violence for a variety of articles and research reports, including many by RESOLVE researchers: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/familyviolence/index.html.
- ❖ The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research recently released the research report *Spousal Abuse, Children and the Legal System*. This report can be found on the centre's website at www.unb.ca/arts/CFVR/reports.html.

Developing a Resource Manual ...(cont'd from page 5)

Children from different developmental levels learn information differently (Tutty, 1996). While some excellent programs incorporate materials specifically formulated to be developmentally appropriate, other programs pay little or no attention to this factor. Developmental appropriateness is another variable that would be examined in the programs considered for the proposed resource manual. In addition, research has suggested that individuals with disabilities are at particular risk for abuse. Yet, few programs have been specifically adapted to the special circumstances around children and adolescents with such challenges. In the course of developing the resource manual we will look for program descriptions and evaluations of prevention programs specific to girls and adolescents with disabilities. Another gap is programs that address cultural differences with respect to accepting violence and defining abuse. In the Canadian context, identifying programs that have been developed for use in Aboriginal and immigrant communities will be of special concern for the proposed resource manual.

Conferences



June 12 - 13, 2001 "Stalking and Criminal Harassment: Conference III", Council Chambers, Metro Hall, John Street, Toronto, ON. Hosted by METRAC and the Toronto Police Service. For further info, contact www.owjn.org.

July 4 - 7, 2001 "The Lived Environments of Girls and Women: An Interdisciplinary Conference", the Delta Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon, SK. Hosted by the Women's Studies Research Unit, University of Saskatchewan. For further information, contact Marie Green, Executive Director, The Women's Studies Research Unit by phone (306) 966-7524, fax (306) 966-2141, email marie.green@usask.ca, or go to their website at www.usask.ca/wsrui.

July 22 - 25, 2001 "7th International Family Violence Research Conference", Sheraton Harborside Hotel & Conference Center, Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Sponsored by the Family Research Laboratory & Crimes Against Children Research Center. For more information, contact Melissa Averill, University of New Hampshire by phone (603) 862-0767, fax (603) 862-1122, or e-mail: maverill@hopper.unh.edu.

Conferences (cont'd)



August 19 -24, 2001 "NOVA Conference", National Organization for Victims' Assistance, Edmonton, Alberta. This conference is for crime victims, their allies, advocates and justice system personnel. For more information, contact the Edmonton Police Service, Victim Services Unit at (780) 421-2383, or toll free at (877) 747-NOVA.

September 8 - 12, 2001 "6th International Conference on Family Violence", sponsored by the BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses. For more info, contact Lisa Conradi@ (858) 623-2777 ext. 427.

September 28 - 30, 2001 "Ending Violence Against Women: Creating a New Reality", 11th Annual International Nursing Conference, Madison, Wisconsin. For more information, contact UW Outreach Services by phone (608) 263-2421, e-mail legottsc@facstaff.wisc.edu, or go the website www.nnvawi.org.

October 17-19, 2001 "Family Violence Prevention, Working Toward Change", Manitoba Association of Family Violence Workers. For more information, contact the Association at (204) 784-4215.

November 1 & 2, 2001 Slave Lake, Alberta - Network Against Violence presents "Ending Violence, One Step at a Time". November 1, 2001 will offer full day sessions on: working with children who have witnessed violence in the family, raising safe and secure children in a challenging society, and the impact of violence on the Aboriginal family. November 2, 2001 will offer concurrent sessions on such issues as bullying, violence and the impact on learning, elder abuse, dating violence, workplace violence, addictions and violence, and many more. If you have suggestions for presenters or sessions, or would like further information, please contact conference organizers, Janet Ross (Neegan Awas'sak CFSA) (780) 849-7359 or Lenny Richer (FCSS) (780) 849-8019.

December 17-20, 2001 "The Second World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children", Yokohama, Japan. Sponsored by the Japanese Government, ECPAT and UNICEF, the aims of this event are to review the progress in implementing the Agenda for Action adopted in Stockholm, and to strengthen the action to eradicate commercial sexual exploitation. For more info, contact ECPAT at www.ecpat.net or UNICEF at www.unicef.org.

RESOLVE news is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and enquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three provinces or to the editor, Cheryl Laurie, RESOLVE Manitoba ~ phone: (204) 474-7410; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: lauriecl@ms.umanitoba.ca

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