



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

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Domestic Violence Support and Legal Services: A Woman's Place



by Melanie Crouch



L to R: Ms. Debbie Beam, Winnipeg Foundation; The Honourable Ms. Christine Melnick, Minister of Family Services and Housing; Nancy Heinrichs, Director of Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre; and The Honourable Mr. Gordon Mackintosh, Minister of Justice

In November 2004, Domestic Violence Support and Legal Services: A Woman's Place, opened its doors to provide services to women who have experienced violence in their intimate relationships. This multidisciplinary Clinic is an exciting addition to the series of innovative responses that have developed within Manitoba to respond to the issue of domestic violence. A Woman's Place is the result of a collaborative effort between Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre, Legal Aid Manitoba, Manitoba Justice, and Manitoba Family Services and Housing. The former two will be co-locating a number of critical staff positions. The funding from this program comes from the kind contributions of the Moffat Family Fund through the Winnipeg Foundation.

The concept for A Woman's Place developed out of a growing recognition that there are many women who are unable to fully utilize (or in some cases, even access services that can assist them in breaking out of the cycle of domestic abuse. Reasons for this include barriers such as not having access to telephones, transportation, and childcare, as well as the difficulties of organizing a service provision plan. It is these women who are often considered to be at the highest risk for re-victimization, and who the Clinic's services will focus upon.

A Woman's Place is based on a dual stream model, and as such will offer both legal and supportive services to women. To provide a wide range of legal services, the Clinic will host, for one half-day per week each, several staff from Legal Aid Manitoba and Manitoba Justice, including: a Legal Aid lawyer, Legal Aid paralegal, a Crown attorney, and a Women's Advocacy Program worker. The Clinic will also have a family law lawyer on staff, who will be able to provide family-law related services to women. This staff lawyer will be available for two days each week. ... (cont'd on page 3)

The support team of the A Woman's Place will provide women with the opportunity to connect with a support worker. This can provide women with court support and encouragement, advocacy on their behalf, and practical assistance including both transportation to and from appointments and accompaniment at

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What is Love???



As we approach the Christmas season we thought we would reflect on what we are working for...that all children can grow up in an environment of peace and love. So 'out of the mouth's of babes', a little reminder of the immense potential for love and compassion within the human heart. These are the answers a group of children between the ages of 4 and 8 provided when asked to define LOVE!



Rebecca: When my grandma got arthritis she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandpa does it for her now all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.

Billy: When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouths.

Terri: Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.

Danny: Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.

Bobby: Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.

Nikka: If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.

Chris: Love is when mommy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.

Mary Ann: Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.

Karen: When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.



Jessica: You really shouldn't say "I LOVE YOU" unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.



Tommy: Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.

Chrissy: Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French Fries without making them give you any of theirs.

Elaine: Love is when mommy gives daddy the best piece of chicken.

A 4 year old whose next-door neighbour, an elderly man, had just lost his wife. When the little boy saw the man crying, he went over into the man's yard, climbed up on his lap and just sat there. When the boy's mother asked him what he'd said to the neighbour, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

RESOLVE Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

The CURA Longitudinal Study Gets Underway

From Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 the University of Manitoba was the site for a three day workshop for many of the researchers and community partners working on “The Healing Journey:” A longitudinal study of women who have been abused by an intimate partner. Forty two people attended, representing all nine research sites in the three prairie provinces. Academics, service providers, policy makers and students make up the exciting and productive research team that will carry out this study.



We had a busy agenda and much to discuss as we prepared to do the pilot test of our questionnaires in the new year. This was a large but rewarding task. We were successful in conducting 25 focus groups which involved 186 women, 84 were service providers and 102 were experiential. These focus groups were conducted in 8 of the 9 communities in which we will conduct our study. With this level of productivity we clearly have the right team to undertake this ambitious project. While half of the team were busy conducting focus groups over the spring and summer of this year, the other half had been equally busy selecting and constructing questionnaires. As always, we have too many questions at first, so now the hard part of picking and choosing is underway.

One of the unique features of this study is our commitment to carry out a cost benefit analysis to the benefits of services that can enhance a woman’s journey to a safe, violent free life. We were pleased to have our resident economist, *extraordinaire*, Linda deRivierre, describe the process of doing a cost benefit analysis and the information she will be looking for.

It was a long and busy three days, however, the energy within the room was remarkable. Doing research in partnership with the community for the purposes of improving services really does attract a “certain type” of researcher. The commitment of our colleagues to finding the answers that will help to improve services and assist women on their journey of healing was the fuel that kept us going. We worked hard but we also had fun. We found the time to wine and dine together, we laughed and shared stories. Collaborative research is inspiring and rewarding. There clearly is joy in a job well done!

A Woman’s Place ... (cont’d from page 1)



appointments. Support workers will provide support and work towards fostering within clients a sense of independence as well as the confidence and knowledge to develop and maintain their own support networks. While the support workers will not provide counseling services, they will have a strong working knowledge of existing community resources and will be able to provide women with appropriate referrals. Thus, the services of the Clinic’s support worker component will serve to enhance, rather than duplicate, existing services. Support workers will be available Monday through Friday.

Eligibility will be determined through an assessment that will take place during the initial visit to A Woman’s Place.

This assessment will consider, for instance, whether or not the woman is in an abusive relationship, whether she has a history of abuse, and whether she is utilizing support services at the time. The Clinic will provide services to women who are having difficulty accessing resources and who identify as needing additional support to access the range of legal and supportive services for victims of family violence. Women with cross charges will be eligible for family law and support services.

The Clinic will be located at 200-323 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba in the Dayton Building.

Jack's Troubled Career: The Costs to Society of a Young Person in Trouble



Problems start early for many future offenders, especially those who will become chronic and persistent offenders. Patterns of troublesome behaviour are often apparent by the age of three. The costs to society start early as well, and they increase as the years go by.

Identifying all the costs of a delinquent career would be an impossible task. But it is possible to identify some elements and make estimate or educated guesses of what they might cost in the life of a repeat young offender before he reaches the age of 18. Let us look at the fictional, but typical, case of a young man called Jack. He is a troubled child who needs special help and preventive services early in this life - but the appropriate services are not available to him and his family, and he is soon launched on his troubled career.



Jack's Story:

Jack's First 3 Years: The child welfare authorities become aware of serious problems in Jack's home during his 1st year. Child welfare services for 3 yrs. at \$2,300 = \$6,900

Jack Aged 3 to 5: Three years child welfare services at \$2,300/year, child care at \$12,000/year and health and psychiatric services at \$2,000/year = \$48,900

Jack Aged 6 to 10: Five years child welfare services at \$2,300/year; foster care at \$7,300/year; guidance counsellors and special education services at \$2,000/year; health and child psychiatric services at \$2,000/year and court services for one appearance at \$1,000 = \$69,000

Jack Aged 11 - 14: Four years of group home care at \$36,500, special education services at \$2000/year, child welfare supervision at \$2,300/year; probation supervision for 1 yr. at \$1,200; police contacts before age 12, \$1,000; three police investigations at ages 12 to 14 at \$1,500 each; 4 court sessions at \$1,000 each; four police attendances at court at \$250 each; 2 psychological and psychiatric assessments at \$2,000 each; 3 months open custody \$19,250 = \$198,150

Jack Ages 15 to 17: Special education services, about \$2,000; 2 psychological and psychiatric assessments at \$2,000 each; 3 years for child welfare supervision at \$2,300/yr; 1 year for group home care at \$36,500; 3 appearances in Youth Court at \$1,000; 2 police investigations at \$1,500 each and 3 police court attendances at \$250 each; two years of probation supervision etc. at \$1,200; 6 months open custody at \$38,500; 1 year closed custody at \$91,500 = \$188,550

Grand Total for Jack's Career to Age 17 = \$511,500

Jack's career as a repeat young offender serves to illustrate some of the common features of how children and young people pass through the child welfare and young offender systems. Not only are these services expensive to provide, but the offences themselves result in a cost to society in terms of the physical costs, personal injuries, and psychological harm experienced by victims.

Jack has a painful early life, and his offences cause pain to others. The cost of such pain is enormous and not easily calculated in dollar terms, which would require placing a figure on a lost life, or lost employment and lost enjoyment of life by victims and families.

In addition, the costs of crime have to be calculated over time, because pain and suffering are not necessarily short-term in their effects.

Jack's story is not intended to suggest that the various services do not succeed in helping many young people. What it shows, in fact, is how important it is to invest early in helping young people and their families. Without this help, too many young people end up like Jack, poised at the age of 18 to enter on a life of adult offending and to bring further costs to society and all who come in contact with them.

Prepared by H. Philip Hepworth, Senior Adviser, National Crime Prevention Centre, Department of Justice Canada

RESOLVE Alberta Update



By Leslie Tutty

The RESOLVE Research Day 2004 conference took place on November 15th and 16th in Calgary and was a success, according to the feedback we received. The conference theme was taken from the Justice CURA project funded by SSHRC, “Evaluating the Justice and Community Response to Domestic Violence”. The conference provided the opportunity to showcase some of the early results from this tri-provincial CURA project comparing specialized courts, civil legislation and other domestic violence-specific initiatives across the prairies.

The two key-note speakers, Dr. E. Jane Ursel and Dr. Edward Gondolf, inspired the audience and the research presenters and panel members that followed. Jane gave an overview of Winnipeg’s specialized court, the first in Canada, having opened in 1990. Her presentation demonstrated the profound impact of shifting the justice system’s approach to more adequately address the serious nature of spousal and family violence. Ed Gondolf, from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, has been researching domestic violence issues for over 20 years, specializing in batterer intervention programs. Ed critiqued the recent randomized clinical trial studies that have raised questions about the efficacy of perpetrator programs. The interpretation of data from his five-site comparison of well-established batterer programs provided a compelling argument that these programs do assist a substantial proportion of abusers to stop being violent.



Dr. Edward Gondolf

A second highlight was the five two-hour panels with invited guests from the judiciary (Judges Sherry Van de Veen, Violet Meekma, Raymond Wyant), Crown prosecutors (Janice le Maistre, Val Campbell, Sylvia Kasper), police (Patrick McSweeney, Llyn Wood, Deb Melnick, Ron Gamble), each of whom shared their experiences of having developed and offered specialized domestic violence initiatives or programs. Another panel provided a legal analysis of the civil legislation from the prairie provinces by Jennifer Koshan, Wanda Wieggers and Karen Busby, each members of the CURA project. The fifth panel, consisting of Marlene Bertrand and Rekha Malaviya from Manitoba, Debbie George from Regina and Kevin McNichol from Alberta, discussed the challenges and successes of collaborations between justice and community responses to domestic violence.



L to R: Debbie George (Regina); Kevin McNichol (Alberta); Marlene Bertrand and Rekha Malaviya (Manitoba)

The conference was truly national, with 32 research presentations from academics and community representatives across Canada. From the west coast we welcomed Alayne Hamilton from Victoria, Dr. Mary Russell, Judi Fairholm and Angela Cameron from Vancouver and Dr. Dora Tam from Prince George. From the east, we welcomed Carmen Gill, Rina Arseneault and Barbara Fisher-Townsend, all from the University of New Brunswick. The focus of the research ranged far afield as well, including a national evaluation of evaluation sheets from two Red Cross RespectED school-based prevention programs and a specialized domestic court in Whitehorse.

Thanks to the Conference Planning Committee of Carmen Gill, Jane Ursel, Robbie Babins-Wagner, Kendra Nixon, and Karen Walroth who have worked with me for the past six months to make the 2004 RESOLVE Research Day such a success.

Halloween Horror!



Recently I have been busy writing an evaluation report on a program in Winnipeg designed to prevent the sexual exploitation of children through prostitution. In doing so I did an update on the Canadian literature on this issue. I was vividly reminded of the terrible toll of this form of exploitation on the lives of girls and women.

- ❖ The everyday reality of violence
- ❖ The rapid rate of addiction to drugs and alcohol
- ❖ The ever present danger of sexually transmitted diseases
- ❖ The disturbing number of girls and women who do not survive
(Being Heard, editors Kelly Gorkoff and Jane Runner)



To say that I was highly sensitized to the issue when I picked up The Globe and Mail on September 20, would be accurate. I did a particularly thorough read of that paper as I was 'captive' in an airport waiting for a flight which was delayed for 4 hours. Imagine my reaction to the following short 'newsy' item in the 'SOCIAL STUDIES' section of The Globe and Mail.

Family dressup

"We've found the perfect Halloween costumes for kids," says The Hartford (Conn.) Courant. "What Josh and Caitlin need are the rags that are selling briskly in California and New York: child pimp suits and "ho" dresses...You think we're kidding. We're not. Brandsonsale.com, an on-line marketing company, is offering one ho and four pimp costumes for children this year for Halloween, along with its usual spider-Man, Oatmeal Bear, witches, devils and vampires. Next year, the company plans pimp attire for infants. The demand, says company spokesman Johnathon Weeks Jr., grows each year. 'We also sell pimp and ho outfits to whole families: Mom, Dad, Kids and the Dog'"



Our society has become expert at rendering the ugly realities of life in the sex trade, invisible through **romanticizing, trivializing, vilifying and denying**. I have always been deeply offended by these social images that range from the "pretty woman" mythology to the "drugged-depraved" individual. This recent article in The Glove and Mail seemed to signal a new low in our culture.



- ❖ **How can it possibly be cute to dress your 5 year old son as a pimp?**
- ❖ **Where is the humour in presenting your 3 year old daughter as a sex object... "as a ho"?**

Just when you think the message is finally getting out that children are not prostitutes -- they are victims of child sexual abuse you get it right between the eyes. Clearly we have a lot of work to do.

Announcements



Meghan Wolfe

RESOLVE Manitoba is pleased to welcome a new staff member, Meghan Wolf. Meghan has recently joined us to work on a very exciting and challenging project. The province of Manitoba has initiated an integrated multi-departmental strategy for the Prevention of the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Through Prostitution. It involves new programs and services and public awareness campaigns. RESOLVE is a member of the Committee tasked with implementing this strategy and we co-chair the evaluation sub Committee. Meghan will be working with us on various research and evaluation projects for the Committee. She comes with excellent credentials to take on such a challenging job. Previously she worked at Thunderbird House as an outreach worker supporting and advocating for women in the sex trade. Her close connections with this community will give her the insight and understanding to connect with and interview children and youth at risk or currently being exploited through prostitution.

Conferences



February 4, 5, 18, 19, 2005, This course called “Motivational Behaviour” is being offered by the Applied Counselling, Case Management General & Rehabilitation Certificate Programs in the Continuing Education Dept. of the University of Manitoba. For further information, please contact Carol Demkiw at 474-6419, e-mail, demkiw@ms.umanitoba.ca or Vickie Jolicoeur at 474-9926, e-mail, jolicoeu@ms.umanitoba.ca

April 20 - 22, 2005 Fifth International Conference on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking and Children. Hosted by STOPDV and the Family Justice Center Initiative (San Diego, CA). For more registration information, e-mail Kyoung765@sbcglobal.net. For continuous conference updates, visit www.stopdv.com or e-mail Anne2215@aol.com



In Memory

Each year on December 6, many events are held across Canada to commemorate the deaths of fourteen female students who were murdered at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique in 1989. The senseless loss of these young lives galvanized our nation to mark this day as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. In Manitoba we pause, in a moment of silence, to remember these six women who were victims of domestic violence.

Manitoba, 2004:

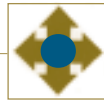
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New National Community Grants Program Launched



Prairieaction Foundation reached a milestone this past summer when we launched our new National Community Grants Program in support of community-based research into issues of violence and abuse. A total of **\$23,500** in grants was awarded to seven groups across the prairies, many working with collaborative projects, conducting research into a wide variety of important projects. They ranged from reviews of existing research and protocols of elder abuse to helping to develop new tools to evaluate the effectiveness of a crisis nursery. Full details of the grant recipients can be found on our website at: www.prairieactionfoundation.ca/grantingProcess.htm

We were overwhelmed with the number and the quality of applications received, which totaled over \$210,000. Such an overwhelming response for this first year of our grants program has strengthened our resolve to continue fundraising efforts in support of community-based and action-oriented research into issues of violence and abuse.

Support PAF and RESOLVE by purchasing your books and DVDs from our website!



Prairieaction Foundation has become an affiliate of Amazon.ca! Visit our website at: www.prairieactionfoundation.ca/foundationProfile.htm and order any item through our Amazon.ca search box on that page and we will receive a contribution of up to 5% of the purchase price. Don't forget to order your most recent volume of RESOLVE's *Hurting and Healing Series* this way!

RESOLVE Manitoba

~ Jane Ursel ~
Director (Academic)

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