



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

Agreement# 40063171

RESOLVE Research Days: Growing in Scope and Participation

✂ ✂ ✂
by Jane Ursel



Ms. Beverley Jacobs

For a decade, RESOLVE has had a tradition of hosting *Research Days*, which highlight research with the community as well as interesting programs and developments among service providers within our province. We cycle the *Research Days* between our three provincial Centres so

that every third year RESOLVE Manitoba is the host. The intent behind the *Research Days* is to provide a forum for local agencies, students and academic colleagues to attend a very financially accessible conference to share information on new research and new programs in the field of interpersonal violence. The *Prairieaction* Foundation supports our work in many ways, including purchasing books from the RESOLVE publication series, and ensuring that each participant gets a book in their registration package.

This year RESOLVE Manitoba will collaborate with the Canadian Alliance of Research Centres on Violence and the Canadian Observatory on the Justice System's Response to Intimate Partner Violence to host a two day *Research Day* event. This collaboration ensures participation of national partners, as well as a number of international partners associated with the *Observatory* project.

Our first day, November 6, will address the dangers and consequences of domestic violence, with a focus on domestic homicides. Our key note speaker for this day is **Ms. Beverley Jacobs**, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada. Ms. Jacobs is a lawyer by profession, having received her Bachelor of Law Degree from the University of Windsor and her Masters Degree in Law at the University of Saskatchewan. Ms. Jacobs' work on missing and murdered Aboriginal women was inspired by her work with Amnesty International as the lead researcher and consultant for their *Stolen Sisters Report* (2004). Ms. Jacobs is also known for the work she has done on Bill C-31, Residential Schools, matrimonial real property and Aboriginal women's health issues. Following Ms. Jacobs plenary address at 12:30–1:30 p.m., there will be a number of concurrent panels on domestic homicide. Examples of panel topics include presenters from Canada, England and Australia, who will compare domestic homicide rates internationally; **Kim Pate**, Director of the Canadian Association of E. Frye Societies to talk about women who kill; and a powerful presentation on children who have lost a

RESOLVE Research Days, cont'd on page 6

Inside this issue ...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2. RESOLVE Research Days | 5. RESOLVE Alberta Update |
| 3. RESOLVE Manitoba Update | 6. Research days, con't. |
| 4. RESOLVE Saskatchewan Update | 7. Announcements / Conferences |
| | 8. <i>Prairieaction</i> Update |

Ni Una Mas: Decolonization, Third Wave Feminisms and Missing Women Conference



by *Wendee Kubik, University of Regina*

NiUnaMas (“No More”) was very prominent on posters, t-shirts, and banners at the very successful international conference, *Decolonization, Third Wave Feminisms and Missing Women*, held August 14 -17 at the University of Regina. The aim of the conference was to raise the public profile of women who “have been” disappeared, missing, and murdered in Mexico and Canada. Women’s Studies at Luther College and the University of Regina, along with First Nations University of Canada joined together to bring speakers and family members from Mexico and Canada together to talk about femicide (a phenomenon described as “gender extermination”). RESOLVE was proud to be a major supporter of the conference co-chaired by Brenda Anderson (Luther College, University of Regina and member of the Saskatchewan RESOLVE Steering committee) and Rev. Carla Blakely of Regina.

According to the Native Women’s Association of Canada’s *Sisters in Spirit* Initiative, there are more than 500 Indigenous women in Canada missing and murdered. In Mexico, thousands of women have disappeared and hundreds of women have been killed in the northern border city of Juárez since the early 1990’s. The Conference wanted to raise public awareness about violence against indigenous women on a global context, but specifically in Canada and Mexico. Other goals of the conference were the ongoing development of a critical analysis of systemic sexualized racism, to create a forum for organizations to meet and discuss the theoretical and grassroots activist work needed to stem femicide, and to facilitate support and activist networks for family members of missing women. The conference, as a whole, was a blending of academic presentations and the stories by the families of missing women. **Maggie Penfold** and **Lucy Dean**, two of RESOLVE’s Healing



Lucy Dean dancing at the Payepot First Nation pow wow, one of the many activities offered at the conference.

Journey members, talked about their experience on *The Healing Journey* in one of the keynote addresses entitled *The Paths to Healing*.

Maria Campbell opened the conference at First Nations University of Canada, followed by the installation of a memorial art piece created by Adrian Stimson, as part of The Healing Gardens, First Nations University. Keynote speakers from Mexico included **Marta Perez**, who told the story of San Salvador Atenco; filmmaker **Lourdes Portillo** (Senorita Extraviata); journalist **Isabel Arvides**; **Dr. Cynthia Bejarano**, professor of Criminal Justice at New Mexico State University, who told stories of resistance and activism from New Mexico and her work in Juárez; and **Kim Erno** focused on globalization in

Mexico and its links to femicide. Canadian keynote speakers were **Dr. Carol Schick** and **Dr. Joyce Green** from the University of Regina; **Shauneen Pete**, Vice President, First Nations University of Canada; **Dr. Carrie Bourassa**, First Nations University of Canada and a member of the Healing Journey; author **Morningstar Mercredi**; **Ian Peach**; **Dr. Kiera Iadner**; **Kari Dawn Wutunee**; and **Lori Campbell**.

Family stories were presented by **Paula Flores** and **Eva Arce**, mothers from Mexico. **Gwenda Yuzicappi**, **Myrna LaPlante** and other family members shared some of their stories of missing family members in Canada. Affinity workshops were held on Sunday to enable participants to examine the violation of human rights and promote ways to actively work against violence encountered by women in Canada and Mexico.

A documentary DVD of the conference for the purpose of secondary and post-secondary education is being produced and the Canadian Plains Research Center will publish the conference proceedings. ☸

Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

Domestic Homicides: What Can Be Done?

Domestic homicides are a tragic reminder of the dangers of domestic violence in our communities. We are always horrified when they happen and we frequently ask “Could this homicide have been prevented?” and “What can we do to prevent these tragedies in the future?” In Ontario there is a *Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (DVDRC)*, whose task is to examine the details surrounding a homicide to determine what changes could be made to prevent such tragedies. This committee is a multi-disciplinary advisory committee established in 2002 to assist the Office of the Chief Coroner in their investigation of such homicides.

As a result of a tragic homicide in Winnipeg in April of this year, a committee has been formed to look into the feasibility of establishing a review committee in Manitoba, one similar to the Ontario Committee. There

is also a Private Members Bill before the Manitoba legislature to establish such a committee. At this time, the Manitoba feasibility committee is in the early stages of its development. However, several meetings have been held and there is good representation from the relevant government departments and police services.

One of our first fact-gathering tasks is to attend a ‘think tank’ hosted by the Ontario DVDRC. This meeting will involve a number of representatives from different provinces to consider what a similar committee might look like in their jurisdiction. Consideration will be given to the different population distributions, size, and demography in each province.

RESOLVE is pleased to be a member of this committee and we plan to keep our readers informed of its progress and developments. ☘



RESOLVE Manitoba Receives Its First Post Doctoral Fellowship



Dr. Cheryl Fraehlich

Dr. Cheryl Fraehlich has been awarded a **Post-Doctoral Fellowship** by the Canadian Observatory on the Justice System Response to Intimate Partner Violence and RESOLVE Manitoba. She recently completed the requirements of an Individual Interdisciplinary PhD program with the Departments of Social Work, Family Social Sciences, and Sociology at the University of Manitoba. Prior to returning to the University as a full-time student in 2002, Cheryl combined work as a service provider in the areas of family violence and crisis intervention with teaching in the Department of Family Social Sciences. In addition to teaching and her studies, she has been employed at RESOLVE Manitoba since 2003, where she has been involved in a number of research projects. Beginning September 2008, her postdoctoral research will examine women’s experience and perceptions of their involvement with the criminal justice system regarding intimate partner violence.



Staff Update

Reagan Gordon, our data management specialist and project coordinator for the *Healing Journey* project, has moved on to full time employment with the Manitoba government. While Reagan will no longer be in our office, she did agree to continue on a contract basis with the data merging task for this study. Reagan has passed the project coordination tasks on to **Maggie Penfold**, who has been an interviewer and data entry person on this project for the past two years. We are pleased that Maggie has taken on this task, as she is very well versed in all aspects of the *Healing Journey* project.

RESOLVE Saskatchewan Students Present Feminist Research at Local Conference



by Meghan Woods, Chelsea Millman, and Holly McKenzie

In April 2008, three RESOLVE student research assistants from the University of Regina presented feminist research papers at the **University of Regina Graduate Students Association 3rd Annual Research Conference: *Putting Theory into Practice***.

Chelsea Millman, an undergraduate student in Psychology, presented *A Critique of Existing Mainstream Explanations of Women's Depression*. This literature review examined Major Depressive Disorder from a liberal feminist epistemological stance, and critiqued the prevalent male stream theoretical orientations that surround diagnoses of depression and the existing androcentrism within the psychological field. This review examined how the sociological consequences of being female in a patriarchal society account for this difference. The review focused on a brief history of women and depression; aetiology in relation to the larger sociological context; a brief overview of feminist therapeutic options; and critiques of male stream treatment plans. Although prevalent neuropsychological and cognitive psychological theories are present in the literature, feminist theories bring fourth new but equally valid answers to the question "Why are women twice as likely to be diagnosed with depression as compared to men?" (Wells, Brack, & McMichen, 2003).

Holly McKenzie, an undergraduate student in Health Studies and Women's Studies, presented *Not Missing: Aboriginal Women use Internet Sites as a Tool of Resistance*. Researchers suggest that dominant media discourses objectify Aboriginal women (Carter, 1997 & Anderson, 2001). Aboriginal women resist these dominant discourses by "writing back" in alternative and virtual forums, such as Internet blogs. In these writings, Indigenous women protest violence against Aboriginal women and the justice system's lack of response to racialized and sexualized violence (O'Hara, 1995; Sisters in Spirit, 2007). Aboriginal women activist websites draw attention to Indigenous women's exclusion from citizenship rights and freedoms, such as the legal right to "equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination"

(Constitution Act, 1982). Indigenous women's "writing back" actively reclaims their identities and their right to violence-free lives. Aboriginal women's resistance writings suggest that in order to provide every individual with full citizenship rights, Canadian institutions need to be restructured to reflect the perspectives that are currently silenced.

Meghan Woods, a graduate student in Clinical Psychology, presented, *Sleep Deprivation and Attention Deficits in Victims of Intimate Partner Violence*. Victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) report sleep disruption in relation to the abuse that they have experienced (Lowe, Humphreys, & Williams, 2007). Attention deficits often develop in relation to sleep deprivation, and those who experience sleep deprivation often exhibit problems with sustained attention, inhibition, and decision making, possibly leading to troubles with safety, work performance, and decision making (Denisco, Drummon, & Gravenstein, 1987; Harrison & Horne, 2000; Jennings, Monk, & Molen, 2003; Pilcher & Huffcutt, 1996). For victims of IPV, attention deficits due to sleep deprivation can result in further consequences due to the danger of the violent situation they exist in, and may affect development of Battered Woman's syndrome as well as stay-leave decision making. The purpose of this literature review was to explore the potential impairments and consequences victims of IPV experience in relation to attention deficits resulting from sleep deprivation during and following a violent relationship. Implications and future directions were discussed. ❧



Left to right: Meghan Woods, Chelsea Millman, Holly McKenzie

Alberta Update

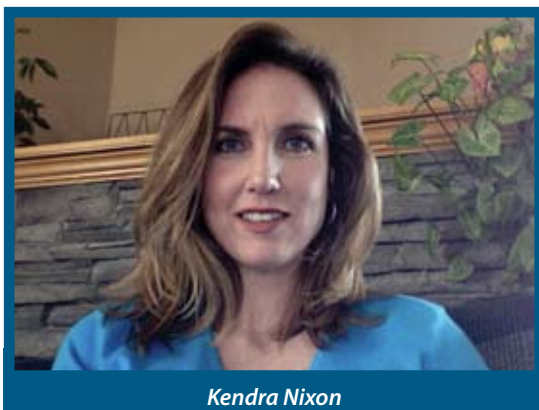


by Leslie M. Tutty

September is a time of new beginnings, especially in academic settings. Several key staff member changes affect the RESOLVE Alberta office this fall.

First, we say goodbye to **Kendra Nixon**, who is moving to the University of Manitoba, where she starts in a

tenure-track assistant professor position with the Faculty of Social Work. Kendra began in 1999



as RESOLVE Alberta's first Community Research Coordinator. During her several years in this position, she played key roles in a number of research initiatives. Of significant contribution was her work with the Status of Women funded *Girl-Child Project*, where she conducted interviews with experiential women and services providers. This study examined how to better provide services for young women exploited through prostitution, and was later written up in *Being Heard: The Experiences of Young Women in Prostitution*, edited by Kelly Gorkoff and Jane Runner.

Kendra was also active in the SSHRC-funded CURA project, the Justice and Community Response to Domestic Violence in the Prairie Provinces. Kendra took a break from RESOLVE for several years during her early doctoral studies at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work, but returned to play central roles in the Healing Journey longitudinal study of abused women and the Evaluation of Calgary's HomeFront Specialized Domestic Violence Courts. Throughout her tenure with RESOLVE Alberta, Kendra has provided resources and inspiration with respect to her own area of interest: the child welfare response to children exposed to intimate partner violence, the focus of her doctoral dissertation.

Another long-time RESOLVE Alberta Research Associate, **Cindy Ogden**, has left to return to her other love, counselling. Cindy has rejoined the staff of the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter's Men's Crisis program, an innovative initiative that provides intervention to men when their partners have left to reside in a women's shelter. Cindy has been with RESOLVE since Fall 2005. With years of counselling experience, a master's degree in clinical social work and an intriguing MSW thesis on immigrant woman abused by intimate partners, Cindy has been in an amazing colleague and a productive researcher. Cindy has taken lead roles in a number of projects. Ones that stand out are the Evaluation of the Peer Support Services for Abused Women, her interviews with men who attended the Calgary Counselling Responsible Choices for Men Program for perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence and the Feasibility Study for a National Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses for the Federal Housing and Homelessness Branch.

Those of us at RESOLVE Alberta extend our deepest thanks and best wishes to Cindy and Kendra, with an open invitation to stay involved as opportunities arise.

Leslie Tutty, the Academic Research Coordinator of RESOLVE Alberta, was recently awarded the newly endowed *Brenda Strafford Chair* in the Prevention of Domestic Violence within the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. The *Brenda Strafford Foundation* has endowed \$1.5 million to establish the Chair. The Foundation was established in 1975 by Dr. Barrie I. Strafford of Calgary and Medicine Hat, in memory of his late wife. The guiding principle of The Brenda Strafford Foundation is to cater to humanity; to bring a measure of hope to people whose outlook seems hopeless. The University of Calgary has matched this amount for a total of \$3 million towards the chair position. The chair will provide leadership in research related to the prevention of all facets of domestic violence—emotional and psychological, physical and sexual, and economic abuses. Leslie will continue in her role as Academic Coordinator with RESOLVE Alberta. ☘

“*RESOLVE Research Days*” cont’d from page 1

parent to domestic homicide. Prior to Ms. Jacobs address, there will be a morning workshop with **Deb Farden** and **Stephanie Martin** on their Saskatchewan homicide project *In Each Other’s Hands*.

The next day, November 7, will focus on prevention and intervention in cases of interpersonal violence. The key note speaker is the Honourable **Justice Murray Sinclair**, who was appointed Associate Chief Judge of Provincial Court (1988), and later Justice of the Court of Queens Bench (2001) in Manitoba. He is Manitoba’s first Aboriginal judge. In 1988, Justice Sinclair was appointed Co-Commissioner of Manitoba’s Aboriginal Justice Inquiry, along with Justice Alvin Hamilton. Justice Sinclair has been awarded a National Aboriginal Achievement



Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair

award in addition to three honorary degrees for his work in the field of Aboriginal justice. Justice Sinclair will open the day at 9 a.m., followed by up to seven concurrent sessions throughout the day. Session themes include grass roots community initiatives to stop violence in their homes and on their streets; Aboriginal programs; national and international justice interventions; programming for adults, victims and/or perpetrators; and programming and issues for children affected by domestic violence. We are committed to profiling community agencies and innovative programming as well as the latest research in the field.

There will be a number of sessions in which analysis of data from the *Healing Journey* study will be presented. This study has interviewed over 600 women in the three Prairie provinces every six months for the last three and a half years. These presentations will address some the complex issues women who have experienced abuse; from the challenges of securing safe housing; experiences with the justice system to the health consequences of abuse.

We are very pleased to have presenters and participants from all across Canada and from England, Australia and the United States. We encourage everyone to mark this in their calendar and try to attend one or both days. Research Days will be held in University Centre, University of Manitoba, Fort Garry Campus. Further information will be available on our website at www.umanitoba.ca/resolve. ☞

RESOLVE Research Days Registration Information

November 6 & 7, 2008

Fee Registration: \$50.00 for the full conference, including Pre-Conference Workshop.
Please register online at www.umanitoba.ca/resolve.

Courtesy Registration: The registration fee is waived for students and special guests.
Please complete the Courtesy Registration form online at www.umanitoba.ca/resolve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Faces at RESOLVE



Julie Shirliff

Amy Dario, our acting office manager, has passed the torch to **Julie Shirliff**, our new office manager. Julie comes to the office management position with an outstanding background in legal assistant work and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba. She has been dancing as fast as she can, helping us meet our endless tight deadlines! We thank Amy for her hard work and wish her the best in her new activities, where she will put her brilliant computer skills to work at the University of Manitoba.

We are very pleased to introduce our new newsletter editor, **Ilze Ceplis**. Ilze is a University of Manitoba graduate from the Faculty of Human Ecology. She has an artistic nature and has worked extensively in graphic design communications on Campus. With an eclectic skill

set, she is committed to furthering her skill base with new and varied projects and looks forward to contributing to the development of upcoming RESOLVE newsletters. We are very lucky to have her.



Ilze Ceplis

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



October 17, 2008 - Sisters in Spirit: Justice Community Awareness Workshop in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Presented by the Native Women's Association of Canada. For more information go to www.nwac.hq.org.

October 17, 2008 - 2008 LEAF (Women's Legal Education and Action Fund) Persons Day Breakfast in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the Winnipeg Convention Centre from 7:15 to 9:00 am. Guest speakers are Sally Armstrong, human rights activist, documentary filmmaker and author, and Charles Coffey, community leader and former executive VP, RBC Financial Group on the theme: *Equality - Media - Men - Money*. Tickets are \$25 and available at McNally Robinson, Manitoba Status of Women, 409-401 York Avenue (204-945-6281) or by calling LEAF at (204)453-1379 or e-mail: leafmb@mts.net. Proceeds support LEAF's efforts to advance equality for women and girls. For more information contact Betty Hopkins at (204)453-1379, or Diane Dwarka at (204)253-5949

October 21, 2008 - Sisters in Spirit: Justice Community Awareness Workshop in Regina, Saskatchewan. Presented by the Native Women's Association of Canada. For more information go to www.nwac.hq.org.

October 22, 2008 - Empowered, Enlightened, Inspired: the First Annual Fundraising Breakfast in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 7:30-9 a.m. at the Hotel Fort Garry, Provencher Ballroom. Presented by the Winnipeg Children's Access Agency. The breakfast features keynote speaker **Ruby White Starr**, Assistant Director for the Family Violence Department, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$300 for a corporate table of ten. Please respond on or before October 3. For tickets call (204)284-4170 or e-mail wcaa@mts.net.

October 23, 2008 - Sisters in Spirit: Justice Community Awareness Workshop in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Presented by the Native Women's Association of Canada. For more information go to www.nwac.hq.org.

November 16 - 18, 2008 - 2008 Family Violence Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, at the Fantasyland Hotel and Conference Centre. Presented by 2008 Diverse Voices: Family Violence Planning Committee. This conference considers the impact of Family Violence across generations and cultures. Speakers will address topics in *Coordinated community response; Intercultural Focus; Faith Communities; and Healing*. For more information and conference fees, refer to www.diverse-voices.com.

RESOLVEnews is a quarterly newsletter published by RESOLVE Manitoba. Any submissions, announcements and inquiries can be directed to the RESOLVE office in each of the three prairie provinces or to the editor, Ilze Ceplis, RESOLVE Manitoba - phone (204) 474-8965; fax: (204) 474-7686; e-mail: newsedit@cc.umanitoba.ca



Supporting solutions to violence and abuse

Phone: (403) 220-8078 / Fax: (403) 220-0727

E-mail: prairie@ucalgary.ca

Web site: www.prairieactionfoundation.ca

2008 CARE Grants and Momentum Campaign



We are pleased to announce that our **2008 Community Action, Research & Education Grants (CARE)** have recently been awarded. A total of \$81,700 has been granted to ten exciting projects throughout the Prairie Provinces. These grants provide research funding for grassroots, community-based organizations and projects that develop solutions to violence and abuse.

Wolesey Family Place in Winnipeg will use their CARE grant to demonstrate the effectiveness of *New Realities*, a program for families struggling with the complex issue of addictions and domestic violence. Sharon Taylor, Executive Director, describes the importance of the CARE funding to their work:

"Research is important to our organization because it assists with program development and it increases our knowledge of the impact of programs and services that we offer our families. Research, in many ways, demonstrates and validates what we assume we know but we are not always able to articulate. The CARE funding allows us the opportunity to hire external professional researchers with the expertise we need."

Regina Transition House received a CARE grant to evaluate *Bridges of Hope*, a pilot project to provide continuing support for women and children who are between crisis shelter and other community services. Kim Fellner, Outreach Coordinator details why this funding is critical to their work:

"This CARE grant is funding research that is the first of its kind in the province of Saskatchewan. By hiring an independent researcher, we are able to document whether the *Bridges of Hope Outreach Program* is being implemented as intended. Results of this research will highlight areas of the Bridges of Hope Outreach Program that may need improvement and will guide action for this improvement. The current program evaluation will lay the groundwork for future program and outcome evaluations within Regina Transition House."

For further information about the 2008 grants please visit our website at www.prairieactionfoundation.ca.

Funding is awarded annually with the next funding cycle beginning Winter 2009. ☚

RESOLVE Manitoba

~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~
Director (Academic)

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO: 40063171
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

108 Isbister Building
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2

Ph: (204) 474-8965 Fax: (204) 474-7686
E-mail: resolve@umanitoba.ca

Website: www.umanitoba.ca/resolve

RESOLVE Saskatchewan

~ Dr. Mary Hampton ~
Academic Research Coordinator

c/o SPHERU
University of Regina
Regina, SK
S4S 0A2

Ph: (306) 337-2511 Fax: (306) 585-5694
E-mail: resolve@uregina.ca

Website: www.uregina.ca/resolve

RESOLVE Alberta

~ Dr. Leslie Tutty ~
Academic Research Coordinator

Community Research Development Coordinator

EDT 1410
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive N.W.
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4

Ph: (403) 220-8634 Fax: (403) 210-8117

E-mail: resolve@ucalgary.ca