



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# 40063171

The Winnipeg Family Violence Court Receives United Nations Award



by Jane Ursel



L to R: Premier Gary Doer, Justice Minister Gordon Mackintosh, Janice LeMaistre and Chief Judge Ray Wyant

CONGRATULATIONS to the staff of the Winnipeg Family Violence Court!! This court was the first specialized domestic violence court in Canada. Being an innovator always involves a great deal of work that isn't often evident or acknowledged. However, this June the remarkable accomplishments of the Winnipeg Family Violence Court (FVC) received international recognition. The court and its staff were the recipients of the 2006 United Nations Public Service Award. This is a big deal for a small province that isn't usually the centre of international attention. As the director of the court data collection project I have had the privilege of working with many of the key actors in the court over the 16 years of its operation. One of the many lessons I have learned in observing the court is the continual challenges the staff face as volume increases, laws change and policing practices evolve. There really has never been a moment to sit back and rest on their laurels. The UN award has provided much deserved acknowledgment of the contributions of the Court and an opportunity for staff to celebrate their success.

In June 2005 Eleanore MacMahon, from Manitoba Justice, wrote an article in our newsletter identifying a

project titled the "Front End Project". It is this project that was nominated for and won the UN award. The "front end" of the justice system is defined as the process from first appearance after arrest to the point in time that a guilty plea is entered or a trial date is set. This project was designed to deal with the incredible volume of cases in the Family Violence Court and the back log that was building up.

Increasing volume was a problem because it made it difficult for the staff of the FVC to live up to two of its most important goals: 1. Timely court hearings and 2. Crown attorney ownership of files. While domestic violence cases are always difficult cases to pursue in court, delays add to the difficulty and provide opportunity for accused to pressure victims not to testify. Delays also meant that families remained in turmoil and uncertainty while the case was going through the court. Reducing court backlog and providing timely hearings is in everyone's interest.

Crown ownership of a case means that the prosecutor is familiar with the case, knows about past offenses, (if they exist), and can prepare their brief more effectively. From the victims perspective it means they only have to tell their painful story once. In the past, without crown

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Winnipeg's First CHAIR-ity Event



Mary Dawson, Executive Director of the Winnipeg Children's Access Agency (WCAA) has come up with a great idea for raising awareness of and funds for the prevention of domestic violence. WCAA provides supervised visitation and exchange services to families affected by domestic violence. In a phone interview, Mary said, "Raising awareness for this is also an important part of the campaign as many don't even know a service of this kind exists". She recalled "the profound impact of meeting our Governor General, Michael Jean, and how it motivated her to look around and see what more she could do." Mary, along with a group of Manitoba service providers, met with the Governor General last October and she was an inspiration to everyone.

- * Manitoba Moose - team
- * Winnipeg Blue Bombers - Milt Stegall
- * Winnipeg Goldeyes - team
- * Winnipeg Jets - Dale Hawerchuk
- * Phoenix Coyotes - team
- * Edmonton Oilers - Wayne Gretzky

The **CHAIR-ity Event** will run the month of November 2006 and will wrap up on December 6 with a luncheon at the Hotel Fort Garry. Mr. Walter Gretzky, Hockey's Most Famous Father, will be the Keynote Speaker.



Walter Gretzky

The **CHAIR-ity Event** will be "on tour" in November, Family Violence Prevention month.

- * Nov. 18 - live, on location with 99.9 Bob FM at the Polo Park Shopping Centre 1-4pm
 - * Nov. 21 & 22 at St. Vital Shopping Centre
- Raffle tickets will be sold (\$10) at all locations during and at **The CHAIR-ity Event** luncheon for the six Jersey Chairs to raise funds for The Winnipeg Children's Access Agency Inc. The #99 Wayne Gretzky Edmonton Oilers Jersey Chair will be available exclusively at the luncheon and through auction only.

6 Chairs
6 Teams
1 Cause

Stop Domestic Violence

THE CHAIR-ity EVENT

Filled with enthusiasm for a new task, Mary put together an idea about sport inspired chairs (see below) which her brother-in-law creates at Jersey Chair Co. With our Governor General's call to pursue new ways of reaching out to communities less engaged with the issue, "**The CHAIR-ity Event**" was born. Mary felt that this was a unique way to reach out to the business and the sports community introducing them to a cause they have been less involved in than other charities. Mary said "It is a opportunity to engage a new sector of our community in the issue of domestic violence." To date the response has been very encouraging.

Autographed Jersey Chairs - participating teams are:

So mark this in your calendar "**A Must Attend Event!**" Tickets are available for \$40.00 through WCAA at 284-4170.



Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

This has been a summer for celebration! First and foremost our Office Manager, Dianne Bulback, pictured here with the President of the University, Dr. Emöke Szathmáry, was the winner of the University of Manitoba 2006 Service Award. This award is given to an individual who provides the “highest level of service to staff, faculty, students, alumni or visitors”. For those of you who know Dianne this award was made for her. Since Dianne joined RESOLVE in 1996 we have benefited from her remarkable organizational talents, her good humour and gentle wisdom. She has been a staff member of the University for 23 years and in



Dianne Bulback and the President of the University, Dr. Emöke Szathmáry



Angela and Darryll Witney

addition to the

extraordinary work she does for RESOLVE, Dianne has been a board representative on her Union AESES and she canvasses for the Heart and Stroke, Diabetes and Kidney Foundations. She is truly a role model for all university staff. All of that activity and still she managed to organize a wonderful wedding for her daughter, Angela (who also worked for RESOLVE IN 2001) and her new husband, Darryll, this August. Dianne was presented with her award in June at a reception at President Szathmáry’s home. Her husband Peter, Jocelyn Proulx and I were there to celebrate her achievements.

More congratulations are in order for Cheryl Laurie who completed her Masters degree this summer and secured a job with the Manitoba Women’s Directorate. Cheryl worked for RESOLVE for 7 years on a number of projects and she was the recipient of the Carolynne Boivin Award in 2005 for her thesis research. She wrote a very impressive thesis on applications for Protection Orders by individuals being stalked. The Manitoba Women’s

Directorate has gained a great new staff member. We look forward to working with Cheryl in her new capacity.



Cheryl Laurie



Baby Jessica

Even more congratulations are extended to Christine Hagyard, the co-ordinator of our Family Violence Court Project, who produced a third lovely child and a second beautiful daughter. Her latest creation, Jessica, joined us for a shower to celebrate her much anticipated arrival July 27 at RESOLVE. Good work Christine and Christian, the proud father!

...(cont’d on page 7)

Saskatchewan Update



by Sheila Carr-Stewart

RESOLVE Research Day 2006

The annual RESOLVE Research Day will be hosted this year by RESOLVE Saskatchewan on November 17, 2006 in Saskatoon. One aspect of RESOLVE's mandate is sharing and disseminating research results. As a part of this commitment, an annual research day is an opportunity to present innovative and action-based research focused on issues related to violence, prevention and intervention. The Research Day profiles and celebrates a variety of innovative programs and research projects that address the issues of violence and abuse, prevention and intervention. It is an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to come together, to share and connect.

This year's one-day event will include plenary and break-out sessions with presentations and discussions. Presentations will typically be 30 minutes, grouped with 2 or 3 similar topics, with time for questions.

The key themes for the RESOLVE Saskatchewan Research Day are:

- ✿ *Community and Justice System Response*
- ✿ *Initiatives for Children and Youth*
- ✿ *Health and Wellness*

The Research Day, however, is not limited to the above-mentioned themes and we look forward to receiving proposals related to other issues of violence and abuse. The Research Day helps profile and celebrates a variety of innovative programs and research projects that address the issues of violence and abuse, prevention, and intervention. All interested community groups, service providers and academics are encouraged participate. All proposals should be submitted to the RESOLVE Saskatchewan via email or to RESOLVE Saskatchewan – address provided below.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Saskatchewan, in support of RESOLVE Saskatchewan's endeavors, has provided funding in

the form of the Graduate Student Fellowship. This fellowship supports (a) the planning and organization of the Research Day, and (b) provides an learning



Benjamin Kutsyuruba

opportunity for a graduate student in a variety of aspects related to organizational administration. Benjamin Kutsyuruba, a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Educational Administration, is the recipient of this fellowship. His responsibilities include organizing and distributing the Call for Proposals, collecting of submissions, organizing the venue for the event, working with members of the Steering Committee and designing, printing and publishing of the posters with announcements relating to RESOLVE Saskatchewan's Research Day.

Special arrangements have been made with Travelodge Hotel, 106 Circle Drive West, Saskatoon, for accommodation and participants should contact the hotel directly, toll free 1-888-278-4209, to secure the rooms at the special Research Day rate.

We hope you will attend this year's Research Day. Submissions should be submitted to Ben Kutsyuruba at RESOLVE Saskatchewan, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan, 28 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 0X1 or via email to resolve@sask.usask.ca.

Alberta Update:



by Leslie Tutty

A Goodbye to Old Staff and Hello to New

As is usual for fall, we have new staff joining RESOLVE, but also say goodbye to several colleagues. Joanne Costello was with RESOLVE Alberta from January to June 2006 as one of her field placements for her MSW studies. Joanne was a valued collaborator on several projects: All the best to Joanne as she continues with her studies.

Karen Wyllie is beginning her MSW studies at the University of Calgary with a particular interest in informal forms of support for women abused by intimate partners. Karen has been a valued Research Associate for several years, contributing to many projects including the SSHRC CURA (Evaluating the Justice and Community Responses to Domestic Violence Across the Prairies), and the Evaluation of the Action Group Against Elder Abuse Community Initiative.

Tracey Braun, while joining as a new Research Associate, is already familiar with RESOLVE Alberta in her capacity as the Alberta Community Representative for the Regional Council. Tracey was previously the Resource and Volunteer Coordinator of VIEC, the Violence Information and Education Centre resource centre and lending library in Calgary. She is updating the RESOLVE Alberta website and working on the Safety Under the Rainbow Evaluation. We are pleased to welcome Tracey on staff.

NEW REPORTS IN ALBERTA

Three new reports have been completed by RESOLVE Alberta and are available by emailing tutty@ucalgary.ca or resolve@ucalgary.ca

The first report titled, *The Engaging Victims of Domestic Violence in the Drumheller Region of Alberta: A Needs Assessment*, written by Leslie Tutty, Cindy Ogden, Karen Wyllie and Jill Weaver-Dunlop. The project was developed in partnership with the Drumheller and District Association for Prevention of Violence. Staff interviewed 59 key community stakeholders and three women victims of intimate partner violence about their perspectives of the strengths, challenges and gaps in providing services in this primarily rural area of Alberta.



Representatives from the Drumheller and District Assoc. for the Prevention of Violence. L to R: Kim Telford, Cora Bolt, Kandace Toews, Gale Himschoot, Erica Kalbhen and J'Nell Perkins

The second report, *Evaluation of More than 4%: Building Capacity to Respond to Bullying and Harassment Workshop Project*, written by Leslie Tutty, Cindy Ogden and Joanne Costello. The project is a partnership with the Action Committee Against Violence (Nicola Yuile and Karen Walroth), Tanya Beran, PhD from the Faculty of Education and Annemarie Koszegi, from Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse. After participating in the workshop, the 108 Masters of Teaching students improved their knowledge about victims and perpetrators of bullying and how teachers can intervene.

A Review of the Calgary Child Witness Court Preparation project: Issues and Implications for Child Witnesses and the Justice System: written by Lynn Barry, Kendra Nixon, Leslie Tutty and Karen Wyllie. This research was in partnership with the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse.

United Nations Award...(cont'd from page 1)



attorney ownership and with delays in the court, the victim may have had to tell her story over and over again to different crown prosecutors as the case dragged its way through the court.

In addition to the direct benefit prosecutors, defense lawyers and families receive from a more timely schedule for their court cases, there is a significant institutional and social benefit. With long court delays and multiple court appearances, the costs to the court and ultimately to the tax payer were huge. The success of the Front End Project has meant substantial savings.

How did the FVC staff achieve all of these impressive outcomes? While all staff within the justice system worked hard to make the project succeed, there are three people who stand out for their key role in implementing such a challenging project. First, Chief Judge Ray Wyant was the "master architect" of the plan. Everyone in the system was aware that the "front end" of the system dealing with administrative matters were clogging the court. Full court hearings involving judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers and accused were dealing with requests for a delay or remand for a variety of reasons, including the need for further information, waiting for a police report, locating witnesses, etc. Judge Wyant proposed a system that took all administrative matters out of the court, and appointed a magistrate to ensure that cases were "ready to go" (had all of the 'front end' issues settled) by the time they appeared in court. While this may sound unbelievably 'obvious' the best ideas often have an "of course" quality.

Although the concept may have been simple its execution was anything but.... how do you undo an organizational deadlock when a large cast of professionals from police to corrections have always done it that way? Judge Wyant's second important insight was his plan of action. For eleven months after his plan was first formulated, extensive consultations occurred with all the key actors in the justice system. Everyone had to come to a workable consensus on time lines for submitting information, deciding on plea and sharing information between prosecutor and defense to ensure the case was "ready to go" by the time it came to court. Judge Wyant emphasizes the support he received

from his colleagues on the bench and identifies the critical role of Judge Richard Chartier who worked above and beyond the call of duty to bring the project to fruition.

The second significant architect of the project is the director of the Family Violence Unit in prosecutions, Janice LeMaistre. Janice put in incredible hours designing the transition in prosecutions, without any additional resources, and motivated her staff to work the extra hours to clear up backlog and initiate the project. Janice would be the first to say that she couldn't have done it without her highly dedicated staff. Finally, the third key actor in this institutional transformation is Eleanore MacMahon. We all know there is often a great gap between theory and practice. Someone has to



L to R: Eleanore MacMahon, Chief Judge Ray Wyant and Janice LeMaistre

monitor all of the cases to ensure that everyone meets their time lines and all information is in place for the case to proceed. Eleanore (the enforcer), is the magistrate who co-ordinates this process, keeps everyone in the system to their commitments, alerts the court if there are unforeseen delays and ensures that the spirit of the plan becomes the reality. She is ably assisted by the pre-trial co-ordinators, Judy Whitaker, Val Adams, Gisele Foster, Debby Tack and Mark Blais, who keep on top of the hundreds of cases per week and keep the cases flowing.

The project has been so successful that it is now being applied to the Manitoba Youth Court and Circuit Court. The results of the "Front End Project" were presented to the Federal/Territorial Justice Ministers annual meeting and other jurisdictions are exploring the application of the Project in their courts. We are very proud of the Family Violence Court in Winnipeg,

Congratulations to a great team!

Manitoba Update...(cont'd from Page 3)



Last but not least, congratulations to Ann Ross, our former coordinator of the Longitudinal Study who joined Manitoba Justice in January and was married in July. We are happy that Ann continues to work at RESOLVE on a part-time basis interviewing women participating in the Longitudinal Study. Her sensitivity and knowledge of the issue make her a real asset to this project. Ann has a great new career and a fine husband whose career choice, prosecutor in the Winnipeg Family Violence Court, pleases us all. Congratulations to Ann and Michael!



Mike Desautels and Ann Ross

This spring and summer, as we were attending awards ceremonies, wedding showers, weddings and baby showers, I realized what a family the RESOLVE staff have become. I think it is a testimony to our strong shared commitment to family violence prevention that we feel so connected to each other. One of the bonuses of such connection is the abundant free labour we often receive from our staff's partners and husbands. When we need to move heavy objects, do some small (unofficial) remodelling of the office or fix up some cantankerous computers, we have always had supporters to call on. It makes me realize how lucky I am to work with such wonderful people.

Conferences



November 5 - 7, 2006 The Alberta Association of School Resource Officers is hosting the 8th annual **"Safe Schools Conference"** at the Four Points by Sheraton in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. For more information please contact Allison Bailer by phone: (780) 421-3564 , by e-mail: allison.bailer@police.edmonton.ab.ca. Conference information can be found online at www.aasro.com

November 19 - 22, 2006 **WorldForum 2006: Future Direction in Child Welfare.** Presented by: British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development, Alberta Children's Services, International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW) and Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC). This conference will be held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. For further information see www.worldforum2006.ca

November 29 - 30, 2006 Domestic Abuse Workshop for Service Providers: **Working with Women who have Experienced Abuse: Issues, goals and interventions.** Facilitator: Tara Carlson, M.Ed. Psychology. Evolve workshop held at Klinik Community Health Centre, Rm. B-10, 810 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB. For more information re: registration and fees, contact Leslie at 204.784.4206 or e-mail ldebrecen@klinik.mb.ca

January 22 - 26, 2007 **21st annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment** presented by: The Chadwick Center for Children and Families in San Diego, CA. For further information see www.chadwickcenter.org/conference.htm

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Supporting solutions to violence and abuse

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Prairieaction Foundation Special Events



The Prairieaction Foundation believes that every individual has the right to be safe from violence and abuse. Every prairie community will have a sustainable course of action to prevent violence or abuse from occurring.

Prairieaction Foundation breaks the cycle of violence and abuse by raising funds to sustain:

1. The Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) network among seven prairie-based universities and their communities.
2. The Community, Action, Research & Education (CARE) Grants Program.
3. Educational and awareness programs to transfer knowledge garnered through research results from RESOLVE and the CARE Grants Program.

Some of the events that the Prairieaction Foundation has been involved in the last couple of months include the production ***Bang Boy, Bang!*** which explored the consequences of date rape. This was a production of Montreal's Youth Theatre and was performed for public and school audiences at the Manitoba Theatre for Young People in Winnipeg from April 20 to 27. **As well**, in May, the Prairieaction Foundation hosted a reception at the University of Regina to launch the book ***"Intimate Partner Violence: Reflections on Experience Theory, and Policy"***. This book is the sixth publication in RESOLVE's series which is edited by Mary Rucklos Hampton and Nikki Gerrard.



L to R: Mary Rucklos Hampton and Nikki Gerrard

The Community Grants Program (CARE) has recently awarded its 2006-2007 grants. For further information, please refer to the www.prairieactionfoundation.ca

To help Foundation achieve its current goals, please contact us at prairie@ucalgary.ca

RESOLVE Manitoba

~ Jane Ursel ~
Director (Academic)

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