



# RESOLVE *news*

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOR SOLUTIONS  
TO VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Volume 9 Number 3

September 2007

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

Agreement# 40063171

## ***"The Healing Journey Project"***



*by Jane Ursel*

***"Happy families are all alike: every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way"*** Leo Tolstoy  
– (Anna Karenina, 1873)

One of the greatest sources of unhappiness (not to mention fear and danger) in Canadian families is domestic violence. In the belief that there are as many ways to escape the unhappiness of violence as there are 'unhappy families' RESOLVE Manitoba launched an ambitious tri-provincial study of women who had experienced violence from their intimate partner. Our goal is to document the efforts women make to secure a safe and violence free life for themselves and their family. While all of the women participating in our study share the experience of intimate partner violence, they all deal with this experience in very different circumstances. Some women live in rural areas or the North where services are less accessible. Others are isolated because they have a disability or are new to our country and do not speak the language. Some women receive strong support from their family and friends while others cannot rely on such support. Each woman faces her own challenges, on her own journey to safety and our goal

is to understand that process. We are working closely with our community partners to identify what works and what doesn't so that agencies and governments in all three provinces can enhance their programs and

develop new initiatives in response to these women's experiences and expressed needs.

In 2004 the RESOLVE team of researchers and community partners was awarded a \$1 million Grant from SSHRC (Social Sciences Research and Humanities Council) to finance this study entitled "The Healing Journey". The project involves a longitudinal study of approximately 200 women in each of the three provinces; Manitoba, Saskatchewan

and Alberta. We are in touch with each of these women twice a year for three and a half years to conduct seven

... (cont'd on page 6)



***Meeting of Healing Journey Team Members, May 2007***

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## *The First Annual "Breakfast with the Boys"*



*by Raymond Currie*

### **BE ONE OF 350 MEN AT THE FIRST ANNUAL "BREAKFAST WITH THE BOYS"**

**WINNIPEG CONVENTION CENTRE, NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 – 9AM**

(Our event has been chosen by the Provincial Government as the Launch for Domestic Violence Prevention Awareness Month)

There is always a great deal of talk about crime in our city. The newspapers, radio and television are filled with the latest murders, assaults, break-ins and car thefts. In spite of a decade of overall reduction in crime in Canada, this daily dose of reports on the latest crimes against people and property has created a mood such that people speak about our city as being unsafe.

What about our homes? Are they safe? In 2006, the most frequent call upon police resources were calls dealing with domestic disturbances. Specifically, 16,637 calls! (City of Winnipeg, 2006 Police Annual Report). This represents 30% of the top five reasons police were called.

There is a bad and a good story here. The bad news is that the police are not called lightly. "A woman is three times as likely to call the police if she had children who witnessed the violence, four times as likely if she was injured, and five times as likely if she fears her life is in danger." (H. Johnson) Think for a moment of the number of times the police are not called!

The good news is that the police are called frequently. Only two decades ago domestic violence was considered by many to be a private matter. What went on in the home was nobody else's business. Now Winnipeggers overwhelmingly support a zero tolerance policy on domestic violence.

Domestic violence is not a woman's issue. It is a societal issue. The next step is to engage men more directly in finding solutions. That is the heart of the message that Ben Atherton-Zeman has been conveying to groups across North America for the last 13 years. As Ben states in his Manifesto:

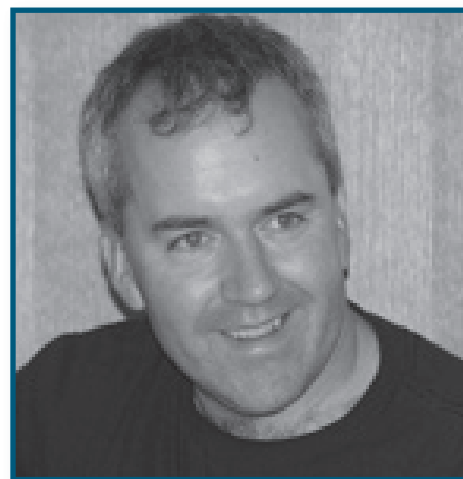
***"Since most of this violence are males controlling females, we pledge to never commit, condone, or remain silent about this violence. We choose to respect, listen to, seek equality with and share power with the women in our lives, and to encourage other men and boys to do the same."***

Prairieaction Foundation invites men to attend the Winnipeg first annual "Breakfast with the Boys" to be held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, from 7-9 am. This will be the Provincial Government launch for the Domestic Violence Prevention Awareness Month.

Ben Atherton-Zeman will be our guest speaker ([www.voicesofmen.org](http://www.voicesofmen.org)). He is witty, engaging and provocative, and has extraordinary success in addressing the serious issues of the role of men in ending violence. The event is both to raise awareness of the role men can play in finding solutions to violence, and it is also a fundraising event for Prairieaction Foundation. Tickets are \$100 each. (A tax receipt will be issued for a portion.) The Foundation will be sponsoring 20 young men. We need to ensure that this message will be heard by some who will be among the leaders of the future.

Prairieaction Foundation has the mission to sustain a Prairie network that supports research and education for solutions to violence and abuse; to support local and national community partnerships pursuing the same goal; and to establish an educational and awareness program based on these results. For tickets to the event, please call the Manitoba Real Estate Association, Shelter Foundation at (204) 772-0405, or through the RESOLVE research office at the University of Manitoba (204 474-8965). Tickets may also be purchased online through [dmorgan@mrea.mb.ca](mailto:dmorgan@mrea.mb.ca).

The Winnipeg Foundation, The Manitoba Real Estate Association, Shelter Foundation, and Siloam Mission have all contributed to make this event possible.



***"Ben Atherton-Zeman, international motivational speaker on the role men can play in eliminating violence against women."***

## Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

Summer is a time for us all to work furiously on our research, but it is also a time for change and transition. Because of RESOLVE's commitment to employing graduate and undergraduate students on our various research projects we have the pleasure of celebrating many graduations. This year we employed 10 graduate students and 11 undergraduate students. Celebrating our staff's graduations and transitions to further education or new jobs is a bitter sweet event. We



*Shauna Wortman*

are happy and proud of 'our' students' successes, but we are sad to see them leave. This year we are experiencing a major change in the Family Violence Court (FVC) study team. **Christine Hagyard**, the project co-ordinator is off to the University of Toronto to do her Masters degree, and **Shauna Wortman** is leaving to take on a very important research job with Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. They have both been with the study for four and a half years. They will be greatly missed, but have done an excellent job training their replacements. They are pictured here showing their "goodbye gifts" from RESOLVE.



*Christine Hagyard*



*Maggie Penfold*

We were pleased to welcome two new staff over the summer. **Maggie Penfold**, is a Masters student in clinical psychology at the University of Manitoba who has been hired as an interviewer on the Healing Journey Project. Maggie is a woman of many talents, she has an impressive history as a counselor at the women's shelter in Brandon, she volunteered with the Big Brothers Big Sisters In-School Mentorship Program, and is mighty handy on the computer as well. She comes to us with glowing references from her previous employers and we feel very privileged to have her on staff.

This newsletter is the inaugural publication for our new editor **Marina Webster**. For a number of years I have admired our University Libraries' newsletter "*Library Directions*", I especially like the lay out and design. So when I started looking for a new editor I made a call to our library. Marina has been the editor of the Libraries' newsletter for three years.

Now Marina is adding RESOLVE to her list of newsletters. Over the summer we have learned that Marina is warm, flexible and has a wonderful sense of humour, all attributes which will serve her well at RESOLVE. Welcome Marina...great first newsletter...we look forward to many more!



*Marina Webster*

## Saskatchewan Update



by Tara Storie

When I enrolled in the School and Counselling Psychology program, I wanted to gain experience so I could enhance what I was learning in school. I heard about RESOLVE through Stephanie Martin, a professor in one of my classes. She asked if anyone would be interested in working on a project with the Saskatoon Sexual Assault Association. The project was funded by Prairieaction Foundation and RESOLVE Saskatchewan. I was interested in the position and getting involved with RESOLVE.

Contact was made with Marcia Clark, Coordinator of the project,

to discuss the position. The purpose of the Responses to Sexual Assault project was to make a case for government support for the Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan and to improve their sexual services. Research information needed to be organized into an easy-to-read booklet that would state the facts about sexual abuse in Saskatchewan.

Online research was completed on the list of areas to investigate. I researched the prevalence and costs of sexual assault in Saskatchewan, the effects of sexual assault on victims, and their needs. I also investigated the best practice models of sexual assault regarding access to services, responses to violence, community awareness, prevention tactics, and volunteer and human resource management. Telephone interviews to the various health regions across Saskatchewan were conducted to examine the protocol that hospitals in Saskatchewan use to help a sexual assault victim. The information gathered was forwarded to Marcia Clark, who organized it into a booklet.

Working on this project was a great education for me, I learned there is a great need for sexual assault services in Saskatchewan

because it has the highest sexual assault prevalence rate in Canada. I also learned that there are many effective sexual assault service models across Canada. Finally, I learned that hospitals and sexual assault services in Saskatchewan need to create multidisciplinary teams in order to fully meet the needs of sexual assault victims.

After completing this project new opportunities opened for me at RESOLVE. In the spring of 2007 Dr. Sheila Carr-Stewart, Director of RESOLVE Saskatchewan, offered me a position with RESOLVE, which I accepted. One of my first responsibilities in



Tara Storie and Marcia Clark

the RESOLVE office was to advertise the RESOLVE events at the National Academic Congress, hosted by the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE). RESOLVE sponsored two events: A panel on shelters entitled "Research, Practice, and Policy: Women's Shelters", and a workshop on a Saskatchewan femicide study entitled "In Each Other's Hands: Communities Preventing Intimate Partner Violence". The workshop was

presented by Deb Farden and Stephanie Martin. The panel and the workshop included academic and community researchers and service providers discussing critical issues related to domestic violence service provisions and prevention. I was responsible for creating posters and advertisements for this event, and was invited to attend the presentations. I appreciated learning about the research that is currently being conducted by RESOLVE to find solutions to family violence. Working with RESOLVE has given me the experience and opportunity I had hoped for and the chance to meet people working in the field I am currently studying.



by Meghan Woods



Dr. Mary Hampton

Dr. Mary Hampton, Professor of Psychology, Luther College, University of Regina, recently received a great honour. In June of 2007, the Section on Women and Psychology (SWAP) of the Canadian Psychological Association met for its annual meeting. At this meeting Dr. Hampton was presented with the SWAP Feminist Mentorship Award. This is an award that is given in acknowledgment of a professor's significant contributions to the feminist community through mentorship of her students. Ten of Dr. Hampton's current, past, and future graduate students wrote letters in support of this nomination. These students wrote about how she has mentored them in their pursuit of developing feminist identities and in applying feminist principles to their research. Through these relationships, Dr. Hampton has also been instrumental in fostering her students' development as clinicians and practitioners through their programs of study and the University of Regina. She is responsible for teaching the Psychology of Women course (among others), and also conducts feminist research as part of a team of colleagues in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba. She is a strong voice in the activist community in Regina, and works hard to promote her own students' activist pursuits in both the feminist and Aboriginal communities. Congratulations Dr. Hampton for this well deserved honour.

## Alberta Update



by Kendra Nixon

With growing evidence that at least some children who are exposed to intimate partner violence (IPV) can be seriously affected, the issue has become a significant social concern. Some provinces have amended their child protection policy to explicitly include children's exposure as a form of child maltreatment, warranting protective intervention. Despite the well-intended nature of efforts to protect children, these policy changes have been criticized for re-victimizing battered women, ignoring abusive men, and failing to protect children. Few studies have assessed the impact of these policy changes, especially from the standpoint of abused mothers. Kendra's doctoral research examines Alberta's child protection policy relating to IPV and its impact on abused mothers and their children. She conducted interviews with thirteen abused mothers who were involved with the Alberta child protection system because of IPV.

The preliminary findings show that these women had an overall negative experience with the child protection system. Many considered the involvement unhelpful, punitive and intrusive. Participants spoke of being mandated to services such as victim support groups and parenting programs, which they perceived as both unnecessary and not helpful. Many did not identify themselves as abused women nor did they consider themselves or their children to be at risk.

Eight women had their children apprehended, with

exposure to IPV as a cause for apprehension, although, in some cases, with additional protection concerns. The women spoke about the traumatic impact of having their children apprehended, including feelings of grief and loss, and losing their identity as mothers. They experienced significant levels of stress and anxiety, frequently resulting in serious mental health problems. In general, the women perceived the child welfare system as damaging to their children, since many were removed from their mothers' care and placed in out-of-city foster homes, separated from their siblings and other family members, and placed into unfamiliar schools

and neighbourhoods. Nevertheless, several found that their involvement with child protection included helpful aspects, such as receiving referrals to battered women's services and learning more about children's exposure to IPV.

Ultimately, understanding the impact of child protection policy on abused women and their children will enable professionals to intervene in more appropriate and effective ways. It is hoped that with sound, useful policies, child protection workers will more ably help families deal with the impact of IPV. For more information about the study, please contact Kendra at [knixon@ucalgary.ca](mailto:knixon@ucalgary.ca). Kendra is a fourth-year doctoral student in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary and has been a Research Associate with RESOLVE Alberta since 1999. She is the Healing Journey Project Coordinator for Alberta.



Kendra Nixon, PhD Candidate



## RESOLVE Alberta Hosts Research Day in Calgary

RESOLVE Research Day will be held at the Beth Tzedec Congregation (1325 Glenwood Trail SW) in Calgary, AB on **November 6, 2007**. The event will showcase research and evaluation projects that address violence and suggest better ways to prevent and intervene to assist victims, and create meaningful societal change. Keynote speaker is Robyn Holder from Canberra, Australia. She was a founding member of the Family Violence Court in Canberra in 1999, and is the Victims of Crime Coordinator for the Australia Capital Territory. To register please call (403) 220-8636 or e-mail [resolve@ucalgary.ca](mailto:resolve@ucalgary.ca).

This year RESOLVE is partnering with Calgary's Domestic Violence Committee, which is co-hosting their "Best Practices Forum: Sharing Experiences, Approaches, & Conversations" at the same venue on **November 5, 2007**. Contact [info@pssaw.org](mailto:info@pssaw.org) for further information.

## *The Healing Journey*" ... (cont'd from page 1)

waves of interviews. At the end of wave 1 we had completed interviews with 654 women in the prairies. We are now working on wave 4 interviews so we have reached the half way mark in the interview process.

Such an ambitious task involves a very large team of researchers and an equally large team of community partners. This project involves seven universities, 40 team members and 45 research assistants. We are conducting interviews in 38 communities across the three provinces. Although the team meets annually, this spring at our 4<sup>th</sup> team meeting we finally took our first team picture. While we did get quite a crowd into this shot there were many more who didn't make it due to prior commitments. Our invisible team member is *Prairieaction* Foundation, whose ongoing support makes it possible for us to maintain our working relationship with our colleagues and community partners. So over time we have the established ties to take on such an ambitious and important project.

In addition to conducting the study we have been actively seeking additional support. While \$1 million seems like a lot of money it is a little thin when we spread it over 38 communities. To date, we have attracted an additional third of a million from other research grants and community funders to support our study.

Why are so many people working so hard on this project? Because we all believe that knowledge is power. Further, we believe that governments and agencies are open to information that will assist them in designing better programs and implementing better policies to support many more women in their pursuit of safety.

What we have learned to date:

- Improved programs for women escaping violence will mean improved chances for children..... among the 654 women interviewed, 89% had children.
- All of the women had tried both formal and informal sources of support and assistance in their pursuit of safety.
- 62% of the women reported using a shelter.
- 72% experienced police involvement.

We are learning about how consistently these women struggle to improve their lives and the lives of their family. They are our inspiration to keep up the hard work and find the critical answers to how we, all of the community, can be more helpful.

## **NEWS!** *Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre Receives Award*

The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton has been awarded \$2.1 million dollars from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) under the Strategic Knowledge Clusters program, to establish a national network promoting and coordinating multidisciplinary research on intimate partner violence and the justice system. The Canadian observatory is led by Dr. Carmen Gill. An initiative of this magnitude is unique in Canada. As a national conduit between provinces and territories, in both official languages, the Canadian observatory will enable the *Alliance of Canadian Research Centres on Violence*, partner organizations, and family violence researchers to work together more effectively to conduct research and develop initiatives on the justice system's response to intimate partner violence. The Canadian observatory involves people from across Canada and internationally. The team members will meet in Calgary on November 7, 2007 to formalize the governance structure. For more information contact Dr. Elizabeth Blaney, Research Associate, at (506) 458-7378.



**C**onference in Fredericton, NB - November 2, 2007 - Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research is holding its third annual Research Day. This year's theme emphasizes children and youth who are impacted by family violence. "Resistance and Resilience: Helping children and youth survive in the face of family violence." To register you can e-mail [fvc@umb.ca](mailto:fvc@umb.ca) or phone (506) 453-3595 or fax (506) 453-4788.

## Announcements



For many years women who worked in the field of family violence were often the unsung, unknown heroes in our community. We are happy to see that “times are a changing”! This spring the University of Manitoba awarded honorary doctorates to two women who have been outstanding in their contribution to alleviating domestic violence. Our much loved local feminist and political leader Sharon Carstairs, founding member of PAF, and our new Governor-General Michaëlle Jean.



*University of Manitoba President, Emöke Szathmáry with Michaëlle Jean during Honorary Degree ceremony.*

**Michaëlle Jean**, Canada’s 27<sup>th</sup> Governor-General, was appointed to this office following a successful career as an investigative journalist and popular television host of information programs. She was also an activist on the issue of domestic violence, working with shelters for battered women and coordinating a government-funded study on spousal abuse, and a Honorary Board member of *Prairieaction*.

Manitobans were particularly happy that our province was chosen for her first official visit as Governor General. In arranging her visit she asked Manitoba officials to provide an opportunity for her to meet service providers working in the field of domestic violence. This was my first opportunity to meet her, and I and the other women at the luncheon were moved by her warmth and her understanding and commitment to the issue of finding solutions to domestic violence.

**Sharon Carstairs** has made an outstanding contribution to Canada, Manitoba and the University of Manitoba. She was instrumental in expanding the Family Violence Research Centre at the University of Manitoba to become a prairie-wide research network. This network called RESOLVE has offices in the universities of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Calgary, and research projects in seven prairie universities. She was also a founding member and president of the *Prairieaction* Foundation that was established to support the RESOLVE network that now has more than \$6 million in its endowment.



*Sharon Carstairs*



## Conferences and Events

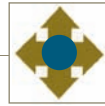
**Regina, SK - October 10, 11, & 12, 2007** - Family Service Regina is presenting a Learning/Networking Event “*Bridging the Gap: Domestic Violence and Stalking*” at the Regina Travelodge South, 4177 Albert Street South, Regina Saskatchewan. For more information on this event, please contact Wanda Blake, Family Services Regina at (306) 757-6675 or e-mail [w.blake.fsr@sasktel.net](mailto:w.blake.fsr@sasktel.net).

**Winnipeg, MB - November 5-6, 2007** - The 5th Bi-Annual Provincial Family Violence Prevention Conference, “TO COMPASSION From Victim/Perpetrator”, (Presented by the Manitoba Association of Family Violence Workers and co-sponsored by the Dept of Justice and the Dept of Family Services & Housing, Government of Manitoba). Keynote Speakers: Dr. Jan Haaken (Battle Fatigue: Feminism, Psychology, and the Movement against Domestic Violence), and Dr. Harry Stefanakis (Putting Compassion to Work with Colleagues and Clients). Conference and registration information available at [www.mafvw.ca](http://www.mafvw.ca) or contact Leslie @ (204) 784-4206.

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**Prairieaction**  
FOUNDATION



*Supporting solutions to violence and abuse*

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## 2007 CARE Grants Awarded



by Pat McInnis

The 2007 Community Action, Research & Education Grants Program (CARE) awarded a total of \$75,927 to 9 projects throughout the Prairie Provinces. The CARE Grants Program provides research funding for grassroots, community-based organizations, and projects that are developing potential solutions to ultimately eliminate the issues and impacts of family violence and abuse. The program is national in scope, with a focus on the Prairie Provinces. To view the approved grants please visit our web site at [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca).

## Prairieaction Foundation Announces



*Pat McInnis*

Pat McInnis was appointed as Executive Director in June 2007. Pat has worked in community development and women's equality for over 25 years. Early in her career she worked with the Northwestern Ontario Women's Decade Council and as the Executive Director of a women's shelter in Sioux Lookout. Since 1989, Pat worked for the Women's Program at Status of Women Canada, first as a Program Officer in Nova Scotia and after a move to Alberta in 2000, as a Policy Analyst. Pat has an MA in Community Psychology from Wilfrid Laurier University, and a certificate in non-profit sector management from Dalhousie University. Her volunteer work has included serving on the boards of a community mental health program, sexual assault centre and a victim's assistant program. She brings to the job passion and enthusiasm for the social change work being conducted through the research partnerships between the non-profit sector and RESOLVE. Pat can be reached at (403) 948-7390 or e-mail [pmcinnis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pmcinnis@ucalgary.ca).

## Momentum Campaign

Thanks to many generous donors, the Foundation continues to raise funds for its Momentum Campaign. To help the Foundation achieve its campaign goals, please contact us at [prairie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:prairie@ucalgary.ca) or visit our web site at [www.prairieactionfoundation.ca](http://www.prairieactionfoundation.ca).

### RESOLVE Manitoba

~ Jane Ursel ~  
Director (Academic)

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