



BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance & Counselling Programs

Issue 2008-01 728-602 West Hastings Street, Vancouver BC V6B 1P2 Tel 604.633.2506 Fax 604.633.2507 www.endingviolence.org

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND ANTI-VIOLENCE ORGANIZATIONS

Lately we have been hearing about some amazing social enterprise initiatives that BC anti-violence programs have undertaken. There are exciting projects happening in urban centres as well as in smaller communities. Some of you are familiar with the term “social enterprise,” but for others it may be a new idea. Here is a basic definition from Wikipedia:

Social enterprises are social mission driven organizations which trade in goods or services for a social purpose. The need to deliver on financial, social and environmental performance targets is often referred to as having a triple bottom line.

It could be that the profit (or surplus) from the business is used to support related or unrelated social aims

(as in a charity shop), or that the business itself accomplishes the social aim through its operation, say through the employment of people from a disadvantaged community including individuals and existing business who have difficulty in securing investment from banks and mainstream lenders.

For example, quite a few BC communities have thrift shops that are run by anti-violence agencies. In many cases, not only does the money raised by the shops support the programs, but also the shop provides volunteer and training opportunities for women who have experienced violence. Survivors of violence may also be able to get free clothing and household items from the store.

continued page 3



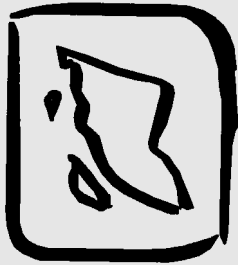
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Focus on Social Enterprise

- > Social Enterprise in Our Programs_pg.3
- > Social Enterprise Resources_pg.7

News from the Renewing Resources Project_pg.10

STV Best Practices Manual in Japan!_pg.17



**BC Association of Specialized
Victim Assistance and
Counselling Programs**

728-602 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 1P2

Phone: 604-633-2506

Fax: 604-633-2507

Toll-free for members only:
1-877-633-2505

bcasvaccp@endingviolence.org
www.endingviolence.org

Editor

Sarah Leavitt

Layout and Design

Britt Permien

Contributors to this issue:

Staff of BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs;
Staff of Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General; Teresa Green;
Irene Hobbins; Camille Legueux;
Angela Marie MacDougall;
Social Enterprise Alliance; Aimee Thompson;
Alison Ward; Maggie Ziegler.

This newsletter is produced three times a year and provided free of charge to BCASVACP members. The views expressed by newsletter contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the BCASVACP Board and/or staff. Please contribute updates, articles, photos, etc by mail or by email to leavitts@endingviolence.org.

The services provided by the BCASVACP are supported by the Ministry of Community Services, The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

Charitable # 13926 5821 RR0001




Message from the Executive Director

We are finally starting to see signs of spring here in Vancouver, and I hope that the season comes soon for those of you elsewhere in the province. It's hard to believe that it's been over three months since we saw you all at the Annual Training Forum (see page 11 for a report on the Forum).

I've been realizing lately yet again how effective all the programs are. I'm not just thinking about the life-saving, healing work you do with women and children. You are also doing such wonderful work in reaching out and educating the public about violence against women, children and male survivors too. We have had a great response to the public education materials we shared with you last year through the *For the Dignity of Every Woman* CD-ROM. The response showed us that you are working hard to develop relationships across sectors and share as much information as possible. (You can also download all these materials from our website, by the way.)

One of the most exciting outreach/education projects that we are currently working on here at the BCASVACP is the Renewing Resources project. Among many pieces of work, we are creating a DVD that will include clips of televised news stories across BC and videotaped statements by male leaders from our province on violence against women and the importance of men speaking up. See page 10 for more on this initiative.

We have also been hearing about many creative ways that programs are taking on social enterprise; some of you have been doing this for years, others are newer to the idea. These projects raise much-needed funds for programs as well as raising public awareness of violence against women and children and the services available. This issue of our newsletter includes stories about some of your programs as well as helpful resources to support and guide your work.

Thanks again for all you do. Please continue to let us know how we can help! 

Tracy Porteous

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND ANTI-VIOLENCE ORGANIZATIONS

continued from page 1

Some agencies will have the capacity to manage a large social enterprise like a thrift shop, while others will chose smaller projects (see the ideas from South Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society below). Still other agencies may try social enterprise and then either modify their plans or decide not to pursue it.

Some critics of social enterprise worry that there is a trend towards cutting government funding and encouraging non-profits to raise their own funds. They underline the importance of continuing to articulate that it is a responsibility of government to find these services. At the same time, agencies are exploring ways

to add to their budgets. Non-profits who have had success with social enterprise emphasize that it is important to find an enterprise that fits with your agency's overall mission and philosophy. For example, does your money-making project also help further your goal of empowering women and increasing safety? Does it help raise awareness of violence against women?

We have highlighted just a few of the projects happening in our sector. Please let us know if you have a social enterprise at your agency; we would love to publish more creative examples in future issues. ☐

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN OUR PROGRAMS

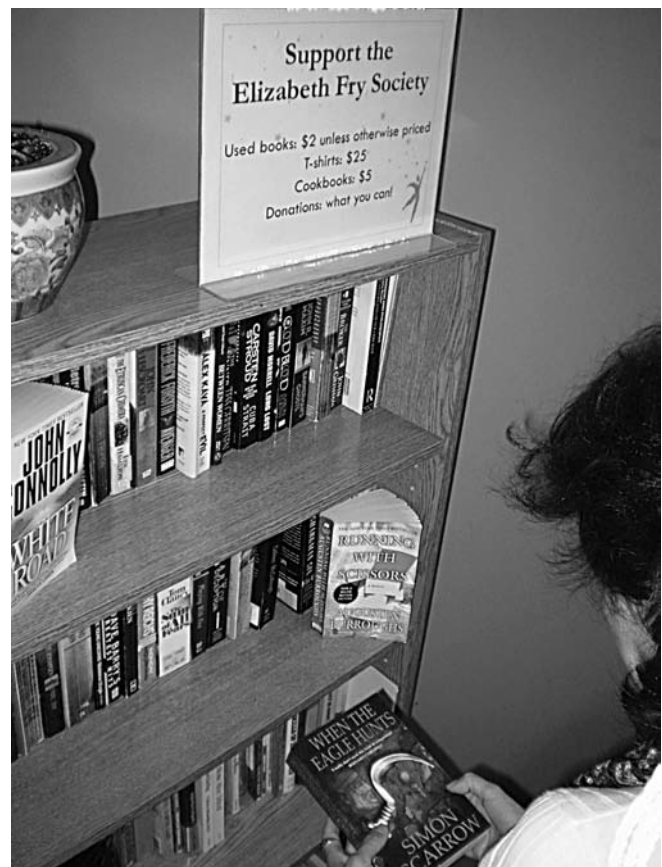
Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society, Kelowna

FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH AIMEE TAYLOR, AGENCY COORDINATOR

The Society has CBVA and STV Outreach programs.

The Elizabeth Fry Society has started two small projects that raise money for their programs without adding much work at all for the staff. A local paper sells the society ad space at the charity rate, which is half the usual price. The paper then allows E Fry to resell the space at full price. E Fry can raise thousands of dollars each time they do this, and also raise their profile in the community. They end up with a page of small ads for local businesses, with a thank you note from the Society at the top. Women who use E Fry services have reported that when they see the ads in the paper and realize that local businesses support the society, they in turn feel supported by the community.

E Fry has also set up a small "bookstore"—actually a bookshelf and a table in their front office where they display donated second-hand books on sale for \$2 each. There is a donations box on the table, and people pay for the books on an honour system, sometimes paying more than \$2, sometimes less. Not only does this project provide a small regular sum of money, but it encourages recycling and supports efforts to increase literacy. It requires very little time from staff to keep the "bookstore" running.



A customer browses at the Elizabeth Fry Society's mini-bookstore.

Cythera Society, Maple Ridge

FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH TERESA GREEN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cythera Society has STV Counselling and Outreach programs.

Cythera has been operating a thrift store since 1996. The store started out as a pre-employment program funded by HRDC. Because of the funding, the store was able to maintain an upscale boutique type of atmosphere, providing retail training to women.

When the HRDC funding ended after a number of years, the society needed to change the way they operated the store. They moved to a less expensive location, and abandoned the boutique atmosphere in favour of a more basic thrift store. As Teresa Green puts it, "We had to switch over to business mode, while remembering our priorities." Cythera is sure to keep their prices very low to ensure that the store keeps its focus as a service, not simply a business. They provide vouchers for clothing and household items to women using Cythera's services.

They also provide opportunities for training and experience for the women who work there. Some volunteers have been with the store for years, and quite a number of volunteers have gone on to find paid retail work. About 60 volunteers work at Cythera Thrift Store, along with one full-time manager and two part-time clerks. Cythera also has a partnership with nearby Alouette Correctional Centre for Women: all the clothing is steamed and tagged by the inmates before being displayed in the store.

The thrift store is an important part of Cythera's programming and is strongly supported by the community with donations and volunteer hours. Last year they gave out over \$11,000 worth of vouchers, which is a lot, considering that most items in the store cost about \$3. The store is also a source of referrals for Cythera programs. The store does make a profit, which all goes to support the programs. As Teresa says, the store is primarily a service, and the profit is a bonus. At the same time, the money has been a "saving grace" in a period of significant cuts to funding.

Haven Society, Nanaimo

FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH IRENE HOBBS,
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Haven Society has STV Counselling, STV Outreach and CBVA programs.

Haven Society has a unique relationship with a local thrift store, Friends of Haven. The store was started by Haven Society, but the agency soon discovered that running the store cost the

organization more than the store brought in. Some of the thrift store volunteers bought the store from Haven Society and kept it running. Friends of Haven is now a "sister organization" to Haven Society: it donates money when it is able to, provides gift certificates to Haven Society clients and makes referrals to Haven programs. Women who use Haven Society services report that they like spending time at the store; it is a friendly and supportive environment for them. This is an interesting example of how an organization tried doing social enterprise, discovered that it was not a good fit at the time, and figured out a creative way to continue to benefit from the enterprise.

Campbell River Family Services Society

BY CAMILLE LEGUEUX, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CRFSS has a Community-Based Victim Services Program. This is not really social enterprise exactly, but we include it as just one more good idea...

There is a partnership between Campbell River Family Services Society (all our programs) and one of the Starbucks here in Campbell River. Basically it consists of Starbucks donating their unsold pastries and coffee to our organization, which in turn are used for groups and/or donated to program participants. They also gave us the proceeds of their opening day "Friends and Family" event (approximately \$1000) and will do a coffee service for us for our large meetings, AGM, etc. Also they have donated stuff (mugs, stuffies, etc.) that are seasonal and did not sell after markdowns. We give this away to whoever needs it. ☺

BCASVACP

Member's

Toll-Free Line!

1-877-633-2505

BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES: WOMEN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

BY ANGELA MARIE MACDOUGALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BWSS

Social enterprise is a relatively new way of describing how non-profit organizations have engaged in the trade of goods or services over the past century. Though this concept is not new, it has emerged recently in BC and other parts of Canada as a “new” concept, with its own lexicon, leaders, investors and entire organizations devoted to the exploration and development of social enterprise. Social enterprise or business with a social purpose makes up the third sector economy, or social economy, which is quickly gaining importance in the overall economy, in which the Salvation Army and the Girl Guides (well-known social entrepreneurs) have participated for decades. Globalization and the world economy have eroded our social and environmental fabric: earth and that which inhabits the earth are viewed as resources to be exploited for profit. Social enterprise based in sustainability has the potential to heal, repair and rebuild.

At Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) we understood at an intuitive level that social enterprise made sense. Since the early 1990s we have been women social entrepreneurs—at first through the marketing of our skill-based feminist counselling training program. Then, in 2001, BWSS opened My Sister's Closet Thrift Boutique on Commercial Drive in Vancouver. We have grown to fully realize what it means to be successful social businesswomen. Our business model is simple:

- To do what is consistent with our organizational mission, maximize our mission
- To promote and mentor womenist leadership
- To promote womenist teamwork, collaboration and partnership
- To embrace change—respect what is working, integrate new learning immediately
- To work very hard
- To see problems as opportunities
- To work very hard



Grand Opening of MSC 1092: Portia Sam; Maryann Boyle, Retail Program Visual Merchandising Co-ordinator; Heidi Baghaian, Manager of Finance, Battered Women's Support Services; Rosa Arteaga, Manager of Direct Services and Programs, Battered Women's Support Services; Onna Tatum; Zainab Bernard.

When we started, we couldn't articulate the theory of social entrepreneurialism or how to deliver on a triple bottom line consisting of human capital, planet capital and profit performance objectives (Elkington 1998). But over the past 15 years we have developed our knowledge and experience as women social entrepreneurs, and today we are delivering on a BWSS triple bottom line:

- Women's Empowerment and Social Change
- Mother Earth Sustainability
- Financial Freedom, Independence and Long-term Sustainability

We recently partnered with Vancity Community Foundation to assess how well we are delivering on our performance objectives, also known as Social Return on Investment (SROI). Upon completion of this assessment process we will publish our results. Some early indicators have modestly estimated our performance returns over the past six years to include:

- 7,200 women have accessed our clothing and hamper voucher program
- 330 women have completed their community hours, completing their criminal conviction sentences
- \$216,000 in household items have been given to women in transition
- \$288,000 in clothing has been given to women in transition
- 20,000 of hours of free or affordable skill-based training has been provided to front-line workers
- 800 people have attended our training programs
- At any given time, over 65 women are volunteering at BWSS, gaining valuable work experience, knowledge and skills
- We have diverted tons of “waste” from landfills
- We have delivered progressive training workshops and programs that cultivate social consciousness steeped in womenist knowledge, Indigenous teachings, anti-oppression analysis and social action

In addition, we promote women’s leadership—specifically, the leadership of Aboriginal women, Moslem women and women of colour. We engage in community development/mobilization, and resources/surpluses have been re-invested into BWSS, allowing us to provide social enterprise staff wages and benefits that exceed market rates, to achieve innovations in program development including BWSS Youth Engagement in Violence Prevention and BWSS Children’s Programs, to launch BWSS Strategic Interventions, a social action and training initiative, and more



The OZ Pilot Project Reveal Celebration:
 Front Row L to R: **Samantha Kearney, Jamilah Walker, Rosa Arteaga, Andrea Dobbs.** Back Row L to R: **Blanca Salvatierra, Angela MacDougall, Onna Tatum, Reny Machado, Joanna Medjuck.** (For more on the OZ project, see our Summer 2007 issue.)

social enterprise, including the pilot of The OZ Project and visioning of The Next Chapter. All of which we believe are innovative approaches to ending violence against women, to redressing climate change, to promoting social change and working toward systemic changes, including supporting front-line workers and non-profit organizations to bring social action into their service work. This is the BWSS triple bottom line.

BWSS social enterprise is how we take leadership and promote social responsibility through engaging our communities to participate in social change and to actively alleviate the impact of oppression and violence for the marginalized in our communities. At our newest retail location in Yaletown, people are eager to learn more about violence against women, and men are eager to shop, donate and become part of the solution towards ending violence against women. We are active members of the Commercial Drive Business Improvement Association and Yaletown Business Improvement Association, contributing to the business community in Vancouver by bringing our analysis to the business communities and further extending our influence and leadership.


Social enterprise has strengthened BWSS. Our investors, stakeholders, community partners, business colleagues, patrons, donors, women who access our services, our volunteers, our staff, our leadership team and our board of directors each in their own way recognize how important it is that BWSS engages in social enterprise. Social enterprise is like a wind at our backs, pushing us forward.

Our Entrepreneurial Pursuits

- Strategic Interventions—Courage on the Front-lines (community-directed, skills-based training workshops and programs for front-line workers)
- BWSS Retail Program—My Sister’s Closet and MSC 1092 (retail stores located at 1029 Commercial Drive and 1092 Seymour Street in Vancouver)
- The OZ Project (an interior design business that offers complete interior design services to women in transition)
- The Next Chapter (a new direction... stay tuned)

For more information on BWSS Social Enterprise or starting your own social enterprise, email us at strategicinterventions@bwss.org.

References:

John Elkington. 1998. *Cannibals with Forks: the Triple Bottom Line of 21st. Century Business*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers. 

Social Enterprise Resources

For more information, resources and links, check out these websites:

Fraser Valley Centre for Social Enterprise > <http://www.centreforsocialenterprise.com/>

Vancouver Social Enterprise Forum > <http://vancouver-social-enterprise-forum.blogspot.com/>

Enterprising Non-Profits > <http://www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca/>

(Enterprising Non-Profits is holding workshops on social enterprise in locations across BC from February to April 2008. Schedule is on their website.)

Social Enterprise Reporter > <http://www.sereporter.com/>

MORE COOL EXAMPLES OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE...

Coffee for Change and the Vernon Women's Centre

<http://www.coffeeforchange.com/>

"Coffee for Change is a dedicated volunteer committee determined to keep the Poverty Support Services at the Vernon and District Women's Centre open, despite government cuts. Coffee for Change has recently formed a partnership with The Shuswap Coffee Company to purchase Café Femenino and Café Cherish Decaf and market and sell it here in Vernon as a fundraiser. The Coffee for Change proceeds from coffee sales will be used to sustain the Poverty Support Services at the Vernon and District Women's Centre... In addition to creating local change for women, by purchasing Café Femenino you are also helping women in Peru. The women farmers involved in the Café Femenino project are paid above fair trade wages. This enables them to build a sustainable economic system; resulting in a more equitable and happier life for them and their families."

Tradeworks, Downtown Eastside, Vancouver


<http://www.tradeworks.bc.ca/womensocialent.php>

"Tradeworks Custom Products is a small business and training program for women interested in learning new skills and moving towards employment or self-employment. The

training is in woodworking and joinery. You will learn the tricks and the techniques that help you master basic joinery in order to build various sizes of boxes, furniture and other wood products."

Phillipine Women's Centre Catering, Vancouver

http://kalayaancentre.net/pwcofbc/?page_id=23

"When the Philippine Women Centre was founded over a decade ago, one of its main objectives was to help empower immigrant women through self-help projects and community economic development programs. We believe that to improve the quality of our lives and our community, we have to work together to achieve a common objective. Our catering service is a part of our overall endeavour to better our lives. Through our catering, we learn to develop our own skills, work in cooperation, build self-reliance, and ultimately, become empowered." 

HIGHLIGHTS OF INITIATIVES, PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Save Our Daughters Coalition

Harjit Kaur, Special Projects Manager, has been participating on behalf of the BCASVACP in this Surrey-based coalition that works to address violence against women in South Asian communities (more info at www.saveourdaughters.ca). Harjit is a member of the Core Group for the Coalition as well as a member of the Mapping the Services working group, which is developing a resource directory for women and service providers. The directory will include services available in specific languages. Harjit is also participating in designing and developing a questionnaire to ascertain the needs of the South Asian women in Surrey. This survey will be completed by clients in the organizations providing services in Surrey. There will also be focus groups to collect data from other women in the community. SODC has plans to create a document that looks like a passport that will contain information about violence and about services available. It would be given to immigrant women before they arrived in BC.



Community Coordination for Women's Safety Program (CCWS)

CCWS provides assistance to BC communities to develop new models or improve existing models of cross-sector coordination on violence against women. More at www.endingviolence.org/ccws.

New Records Management Workshop

We recently developed and presented two sessions of a new workshop, "Protection of Privacy for Survivors of Violence: Records Management for Anti-Violence Workers." We adapted the one-day records management guidelines training curriculum to make it suitable for a regional training format relevant to a cross section of agencies, including: Transition Houses, CWWA Counsellors, Safe Home Coordinators, Family Resource Centres, STV Counsellors, STV Outreach Workers, Mental Health Workers and CBVAPs. We discovered that there is a great need for this workshop, as service providers are dealing with complex privacy and safety issues.

STV Outreach Core Training Development

We are pleased to report that the Association and BCYSTH have received funding from MCS to develop training for Outreach workers. The curriculum will be based on the Association's STV Counselling and Sexual Assault trainings and many of our topic-specific workshop trainings, and on the BCYSTH's core training. The training will consist of three four to five-day modules. We have also negotiated an exciting and innovative online pre-training module that covers the basic aspects of the justice system. The Justice Institute of BC will deliver this module for us. Stay tuned for details!

Developing a Collaborative Response to Sexual Assault
Workshops on Developing a Collaborative Response to Sexual Assault are planned for a number of communities in the upcoming months. Many BC communities are grappling with this issue as they work to ensure that sexual assault survivors receive a coordinated response, including medical attention, justice system response and counselling/advocacy. If you are interested in having CCWS work with your community, contact our Regional Coordinators (see inside back cover for contact information).

Community Leadership Training

Our annual Community Leadership Training will be held on March 5, 6 and 7 in Vancouver. This skills-based training is intended for those leading or interested in leading a local coordination initiative on violence against women. Once again we received far more applications than we were able to accept: over 40 for 14 spots. We look forward to this intensive and exciting training with coordination leaders across BC, and will report on it in our next issue.



Participants confer at a workshop presented by CCWS in Vernon, "From Issues Analysis to Practice Protocols":

Tom Ryan (Family Justice Counsellor), Shannon Green (VAWIR Coordinator), Dona Rockwell (PBVAP), Kelly Wasylyszyn (Transition House), Carole Wutzke (Immigrant Services).

More Upcoming Trainings

CCWS is preparing to present information about coordination at the Legal Services Society Intake Workers Training and the meeting of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Check the BCASVACP Calendar of Events for more CCWS events: www.endingviolence.org/event.

Safe Choices Program

Safe Choices focuses on improving the health and safety of women who are currently or have been in abusive same-sex/gender relationships by empowering women and strengthening our communities to respond to this issue. More at www.endingviolence.org/safe_choices.

Making a Difference with Our Trainings

Our new facilitators (see last issue) continue to present workshops for women in the queer communities as well as service providers working with these communities. Recently we analyzed evaluation forms from our workshops and discovered that:

- 90 % of participants in the Healthy Relationship workshops for queer women indicate that they have greater knowledge and skills to create healthy relationships. Women tell us that a significant outcome of these workshops is how they help to reduce isolation. Comments included: "I feel a warm sense of community and connection which can be hard to find in Greater Vancouver" and "I realize how I want to be treated isn't always how I treat my partner...and I want to talk to her about that."

- Organizations and service providers who attended our trainings have indicated that the training has helped them to offer services that are more accessible and responsive to queer women who have experienced abuse. 100% of the participants indicated that their overall knowledge and skills in the area of abuse in same-gender/sex relationships had improved. Comments included: "I will be more sensitive to those who are affected by abuse" and "This improved my ability to speak with reassurance and knowledge as an ally in the world."

Clarifying Our Mandate

With the support of our community advisory committee, the Safe Choices Program regularly re-evaluates our mandate to ensure that we are serving queer women as effectively as possible. We have revisited the issue of inclusivity in our healthy relationship workshops for trans and bisexual folks. It has been decided to scale back our inclusivity policy to keep workshops open to transwomen and bisexual women who wish to reflect on same-gender experiences. In doing so, we hope to keep a level of safety in the workshops for all participants, and to ensure that our curriculum, which is exclusively focused on women in same gender relationships is relevant to all participants.

New Community Partnerships

Safe Choices has entered into a number of exciting partnerships:

- Partnership with the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind Well-Being Program (Well-Being): As a consequence of outreach to this program, Well-Being has

recognized that they have not created space within their services for queer people to gather, learn and gain support. Awareness has now been raised within the program and a staff person has become a new facilitator with Safe Choices. To date, two healthy relationship workshops have been provided in partnership with Well-Being, and for the first time, sign language interpretation was provided at BCASVACP's annual training forum so that deaf professionals could participate. There are discussions right now about the readiness of Well-Being to provide a support group for deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind queer women.

- Partnership with Britannia Community Centre: Some of our healthy relationship workshops are listed in their calendar and space is provided for free. The outcome of this partnership has been to raise our profile within the queer community and to reach participants who have not previously heard of Safe Choices.
- A partnership with The Centre (for LGBT people and their allies) and Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) has led to Safe Choices workshops becoming a regular component of these organizations' volunteer training programs. Therefore, all Prideline and BWSS volunteers receive training in the area of same-sex relationship abuse. The Centre and Safe Choices also access each other's distribution lists for disseminating information on gay and lesbian issues, trainings, support services and research, thus reaching more of our community. ☞

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.endingviolence.org
or e-mail: bcasvaccp@endingviolence.org

RENEWING RESOURCES PROJECT

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE BCASVACP AND THE ENDING RELATIONSHIP ABUSE SOCIETY OF BC (ERA), FUNDED BY MCS THROUGH A PARTNERS IN PREVENTION GRANT.

We are excited to announce that a new coordinator is in place for the Renewing Resources Project. This project began last year with the goal of supporting some of the resource sector (mining, fishing and forestry) in addressing violence against women. Activities include training management, union leaders and human resources staff in the sector, creating links between industry and local anti-violence agencies and creating practical, accessible resources to be used within the sector.


Former Community-Based Victim Service Coordinator for Haida Gwaii, Sandra Beggs comes to the project with many years of experience working in the anti-violence field in remote/rural BC. Sandra lives on Haida Gwaii and she her husband work in the fishing industry. Sandra has significant contacts in both the fishing and the logging industry in her community and throughout BC.

Sandra hit the ground running and we have some really exciting outcomes already. As we mentioned when the project began, this is an unprecedented collaboration between the anti-violence sector and the resource sector. An advisory committee has been set up for the project that includes representation from anti-violence programs as well as BC Federation of Labour, United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union, Mining Association of BC, Council of Forest Industries, Association for Mineral Exploration of BC, United Way, Canadian Labour Congress, United Steelworkers and the Ministry of Community Services.

Trainings have been scheduled throughout the province, which will include industry representatives and local anti-violence workers. Members of the advisory committee have provided excellent feedback and guidance on materials and training

plans prepared by the project, and have helped to advertise the training sessions throughout their sectors.

Another exciting part of the project is the development of a DVD to be used in training. The DVD will be a collection of statements from prominent male leaders in BC about the importance of men addressing violence against women. We have already started taping, and participants include politicians, RCMP, union leaders and counsellors of abusive men. It has been inspiring to see the willingness of these men to come forward in support of our project.

For more information, contact Sandra at 250-559-8831 (ph/fax) or 604-315-1134 (cell). For Renewing Resources training dates, see the Calendar of Events on our website (www.endingviolence.org/event). 



Sandra Beggs

FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE: NAVIGATING THE INTERSECTIONS OF TRAUMA, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE

REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL TRAINING FORUM 2007

It's hard to believe that three months have passed since we got together for the Annual Training Forum. The Forum was a great success, with wonderful keynote speeches and workshops. For those of you who were not able to be there, videos of the keynote speeches are on our website (www.endingviolence.org/public_education_tools). For copies of the handouts that were distributed at the workshops, please contact Alison at our office.

Unfortunately the photos that we took weren't very good—i.e. blurry and dark, but we did get some great comments on our evaluation forms. Here is a small selection:

"It's always invigorating to come to the annual forum. The energy and work that goes into it astounds me."

"Well organized, thoughtful of different needs of attendees, variety of presenters and workshops, great materials to use in my work."

"The best Training Forum so far! It has fed my soul in order to go forward in working with women."

"Food was the best yet!"

"Thank you for bringing trauma and addictions together in this training!"

"I feel empowered to address some barriers to interagency service provision for women in our community."


"I got a better, more rounded understanding of the complex issues and systems in dealing with people who have experienced trauma."

We also got great comments on each of the keynote speakers...

Angela Marie MacDougall: "The antidote to vicarious trauma! Thanks for being so real. I felt a fog lift and remembered why I do the work and the complexity from which we must work."

Charlotte Sophia Kasl: "Loved it. Clear, concise and presented in a warm, genuine, respectful way. The concepts presented were easily transferrable to my work with clients."


Gloria Larocque: "A very genuine heartfelt presentation, bringing forward history and encouraging advocacy for continued change and growth. I will aspire to not lose my hope."

John Briere: "Entertaining, but gets to the foundation and bottom line of these issues. I'm always happy to hear men speak on these topics." 

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNITS (DVU) FORUM

BY GAIL EDINGER, REGIONAL COORDINATOR, CCWS PROGRAM

A forum for police interested in Domestic Violence Units was held in Surrey on January 31, 2008. The forum invited representatives from existing DVUs and from RCMP detachments and municipal police departments that are in the process of exploring the feasibility of a DVU. The forum was designed by members of the Vancouver, New Westminster, Richmond and Surrey DVUs; the Surrey Women's Centre; MPSSG; RCMP; Family Services of Greater Vancouver; Police Victim Services of BC; the Domestic Violence Crown specialist from the Criminal Justice Branch of MAG; and CCWS. The forum was funded by MPSSG.

Besides representatives from the existing DVUs, the following detachments/departments were represented at the forum: Port Alberni RCMP, Burnaby RCMP, Victoria Police Department, Delta Police Department, Abbotsford Police Department, Saanich Police Department, North Vancouver RCMP, Langley RCMP and Port Moody Police Department. The forum was a successful opportunity to share best practices and is the first phase of a process that will involve other police and victim services in the near future. We will keep programs apprised of plans for future forums as they evolve. For more information contact Gail Edinger (see contact info page 23), or Jane Coombe at MPSSG, 250-356-6567. 

REGISTER NOW—REGIONAL TELECONFERENCES FOR ALL PROGRAMS

If you haven't already registered, please contact Harjit at our office ASAP: kaur@endingviolence.org. The teleconferences are one of the most important ways in which we gather information from programs to inform our work on your behalf. Check the schedule below; if you cannot make it on the day of your region's teleconference, please check with Harjit about attending a different region's call.

Please note:

All conference calls are 10:00 AM-12:00 PM (PST).

STV Counselling Programs:

Region 1, 2 & 11:

North and South Vancouver Island and North East

March 4, 2008

Region 3 & 4:

Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley

March 5, 2008

Regions 5 & 6:

Interior and Okanagan

March 6, 2008

Regions 7 & 8:

East and West Kootenays

March 11, 2008

Regions 9 & 10:

North West and Central

March 12, 2008

STV Outreach and

Multicultural Programs:

April 15: Regions 1, 2, 5, 6, 11

April 16: Regions 3 & 4

April 17th: Regions 7, 8, 9, 10

CBVA Programs:

May 5: Regions 1 & 2

May 6: Regions 3 & 4

May 7: Regions 5, 6, 7, 8

May 8: Regions 9, 10, 11

THIRD PARTY REPORTING: TRAINING SESSIONS SCHEDULED ACROSS BC

As you know, the BCASVACP and the CCWS Program have been working with the RCMP, municipal police and the MPSSG to find ways for victims who are not interested in engaging with the justice system to get information to police anonymously on sexual related offences. RCMP and municipal police in BC are now in the process of adopting a provincial protocol for third party reporting. We anticipate this will be in place by the beginning of April 2008!

We are thrilled to announce that we have obtained funding from the National Policy Centre for Victim Issues and the RCMP Family Violence Initiative to hold training sessions across the province.

Training sessions have been scheduled for CBVAP workers, PBVAP workers and police, between April and June 2008, to ensure that anti-violence workers and police gain information and skills to enable them to consistently carry out the third party reporting protocol.

Please see the Calendar of Events on our website for specific dates and locations (www.endingviolence.org/event). Registration details will be coming in the next few weeks via fax and email. ☒

WHAT'S NEW ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.ENDINGVIOLENCE.ORG

As you all know, we launched our new website in November 2007. We keep adding new information and resources, so check the site often to find things like...

UPDATES ON ASSOCIATION RESOURCES AND EVENTS

Check the Calendar of Events at www.endingviolence.org/event for upcoming trainings and other events. Check the *What's New* column on the right of the homepage for new resources and more!

NON-ASSOCIATION EVENTS and RESOURCES

I have added new pages to the Links section of the website for events and resources that we know about from other agencies.

Please send any items you think would be good for these pages to Sarah at the office: leavitts@endingviolence.org.

Check these pages out:

http://endingviolence.org/links/more_antiviolence_resources

http://endingviolence.org/links/non_bcasvaccp_events

VIDEOS!

To watch videos of our keynote speakers at the 2006 & 2007 Annual Training Forums, go to www.endingviolence.org/public_education_tool. The keynotes are divided up into sections about 15 minutes long— you can watch one on your break!

PROGRAMS AT WORK ACROSS THE PROVINCE


CHIMO Crisis Services, STV Counselling Program Richmond

CHIMO is one of several organizations that participate in the Richmond Family Violence Prevention Network, and was the lead agency for the White Ribbon Campaign in their community. Participants included students from McMath Secondary School, who collected signatures from students and raising awareness of the issue in their school. It's great to see that the Family Violence Prevention Network was able to gain the full support of Mayor Malcolm Brodie, who said, "An important part of our city's vision is for Richmond to be the most livable community in Canada. That means a city without violence, where women and girls can live freely, without fear of violence from acquaintances, relatives or other men they encounter in their day-to-day lives. And one of the best ways to combat this violence is for all of us to speak out against it. The White Ribbon Campaign gives us the opportunity to do this." From the Backgrounder in the White Ribbon Campaign media package:

What every man can do to help end men's violence against women

- Listen to women you know, discover how violence has affected their lives.
- Learn about the problem...the different forms of violence, especially the more subtle emotional and psychological abuse and the impact on women, children, families, neighborhoods.

- Explore the roots of violence, and the connections with fear and loss of control. Examine how societal values and expectations support the perpetuation of violence.
- Wear a White Ribbon.
- Challenge sexist language and jokes that degrade women.
- Learn to identify and oppose sexual harassment and violence in your workplace, school and family.
- Support local women's programs.
- Examine how your own behaviour might contribute to the problem.
- Work towards long-term solutions, changes in laws, attitudes, behaviors, institutions, how we socialize our children, etc.
- Give talks in schools, communities, and workplaces.
- Organize special events to support positive roles for men.
- Talk to young people about building healthy relationships.

(Thanks to Rosa Tesler Mabe and Stephen Leblanc at CHIMO for this information.) 



White Ribbon Campaign in Richmond

Attending the event were:

Hon. Raymond Chan,
MP for Richmond,
Hon. Olga Ilich,
Minister of Labour & Citizens' Services, & MLA for Richmond Centre,
His Worship Mayor Malcolm Brodie,
Councilors Bill McNaulty,
Cynthia Chen and
Lynda Barnes along with
 Richmond RCMP
Superintendent Ward Clapham.

NEWS

Best Wishes and We Will Miss You...

Pam Gregg



In December 2007, Pam Gregg left her position as Agency Administrator at Omineca Safe Home Society in Vanderhoof after 10 years of amazing work. We at the Association have appreciated Pam's dedication to anti-violence work, in particular community coordination. You can read more about Pam's work on sexual assault coordination in our Spring 2006 and Fall

2007 issues. Before leaving her position, Pam assisted with the development of a new administrative team at Omineca, and helped complete plans for a new second stage housing program; this is just an example of the dedication and hard work that Pam has given the anti-violence sector over the years. Joy Aitkens, Transition House Coordinator at Omineca, retired last October, after 15 years; best wishes to Joy as well. We look forward to working with the new team at Omineca, including Sylvia Byron who worked closely with Pam on coordination.

Jane Templeman

This January, Jane Templeman retired from her position as Executive Director at Haven Society in Nanaimo. Jane has been the ED since 1996. Over the past 12 years, she has raised the profile of Haven Society in the community, dramatically increased the amount of public donations to the society and prioritized providing support to her staff. Jane has also made valuable contributions to the BCASVACP, in particular, her assistance in the development of the Feminist Management curriculum for the Association and the JIBC. We will miss Jane, and wish her the best; we hear that she plans to rest and relax and do some travelling. We look forward to working with the new Haven ED, Anne Spilker, who we know already through her work as a program manager at Haven. Anne has written in this newsletter (Spring 2007) and presented a workshop at our 2007 Annual Training Forum about the innovative Seeking Safety model.

Legal Information Outreach Workers

Legal information outreach workers (LIOWs) are staff members at Legal Services Society (LSS) regional centres who can:

- Help people use LawLINK to find legal information and self-help resources on the Internet;
- Give people printed legal information;
- Refer people to other LSS services such as LawLINE and family duty counsel, and other community services; and
- Visit community groups to tell them about LSS services, and collect feedback from community workers and the public about LSS programs.

To contact a legal information outreach worker, call the regional centre closest to you:

Kamloops.....	(250) 314-1900
Kelowna	(250) 763-8613
Prince George	(250) 564-9717
Surrey	(604) 585-6595
Terrace	(250) 635-2133 or
.....	1-800-787-2511 (toll free)
Vancouver	(604) 601-6166
Victoria.....	(250) 388-4516

Sharon McIvor's Fight for Aboriginal Women's Rights

Members of the Association will remember Sharon McIvor as a powerful speaker at our 2002 Annual Training Forum. Please read on for important information about Sharon's current fight for Aboriginal women's rights. Reprinted from an email forwarded to the Association and posted on various websites.

Sharon McIvor is a member of the Lower Nicola Band, a practicing member of the Law Society of British Columbia, and a Professor of Aboriginal Law at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. She is the author of many articles on Aboriginal women's rights, and she has been a leader in the Native Women's Association of Canada and the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action for many years.

Sharon McIvor has also been tireless in her work to end violence against Aboriginal women, and in fostering independent women's organizations, including rape crisis centers and transition houses. Sharon has devoted her life to improving the conditions of Aboriginal women, and all women in Canada.

Recently, in an unprecedented constitutional case, Sharon McIvor successfully challenged the continuing preferential treatment given to males and those whose Indian status is traced from male ancestors, as a violation of section 15, the equality guarantee of the Canadian Charter of Rights.

On June 7, 2007, in *McIvor v. Canada*, the British Columbia Supreme Court ruled that the federal government must remove sex discrimination from the determination of Indian status and restore equal Indian status to First Nations women and their descendants. This is a ground-breaking judgment that may affect the Indian status up to 200,000 Aboriginal women and their descendants.

Amendments were made to the Indian Act in 1985. They were supposed to remedy long-standing discrimination against First Nations women. But the Government amendments were flawed. The 1985 Act established a hierarchy for registration status that perpetuates the sex discrimination of the past. Women and their children who had been disentitled to status because of marrying out, or non-Indian paternity, were granted status, but not full Indian status. The 1985 Act still reserves full registration entitlement for those who trace their ancestry along the male line. Judge Carol Ross of the B.C. Supreme Court ruled that this preferential treatment is unconstitutional.

The federal government has appealed Judge Ross' ruling, and the issue will probably not be resolved until it is decided by the Supreme Court of Canada. Until now, Sharon McIvor's legal challenge has been supported financially by the Court Challenges Program. But since Stephen Harper de-funded the Court Challenges Program in 2006, Sharon McIvor now faces the federal government, with no resources of her own, on a very uneven playing field.

For more information...

Listen to Sharon McIvor's interview on Vancouver Co-op Radio:
<http://www.rabble.ca/rpn/episode.shtml?x=62679>

McIvor v. Canada: Bring Back Equality for Native Women: from the blog of the Visions Centre of Innovation: Aboriginal Health Resources and Information
(<http://visions.ab.ca/blog/?p=20>)

McIvor vs Canada:
<http://www.visions.ab.ca/content/features/mcivorvscanada.asp>

McIvor v. The Registrar, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada:
<http://www.courts.gov.bc.ca/Jdb-txt/SC/07/08/2007BCSC0827.htm>

Cheques for the Sharon McIvor Case Fund can be made out to: Heenan, Blaikie, in trust for Sharon McIvor, and mailed to:
Heenan, Blaikie, c/o Rob Grant
Suite 2200, 1055 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 2E9

You can also send a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper requesting he bring back the Court Challenges Program:

You can send your comments by e-mail to pm@pm.gc.ca or write or fax the Prime Minister's office at:
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street, Ottawa, K1A 0A2
Fax: 613-941-6900

Violence Awareness Weeks Coming in April

Victims of Crime Awareness Week

(national and provincial)

April 13-19, 2008


The theme for the Week is "Finding the Way Together."
<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/voc/funding/info.html>

Prevention of Violence Against Women Week

(provincial)

April 20-26, 2008

Details coming soon...

One project planned for this week is the Save Our Daughters Coalition public awareness campaign. The coalition has "created wristbands that represent the vibrant and colourful South Asian culture. The wristbands symbolize the community's collective commitment to stopping violence against women." More at <http://saveourdaughters.ca/prevention.html>. 

FEMINIST ANTI-VIOLENCE WORK IN JAPAN

BY MAGGIE ZIEGLER

I have been several times to Japan to deliver training to support victims of family violence and abuse. This article, the first of two about Japan, is an introduction to the efforts of Japanese women to challenge battering in their society. The second will focus on training in a cross-cultural setting.

I first went to Japan in 1999. The morning after my arrival, the Japan Times featured an article about the Japanese consul in Vancouver, Shuji Shimokoji, who had just been arrested in for beating his wife Kazuko. Vancouver Police Inspector Ken Davies quoted Mr. Shimokoji as saying, "Yes, I punched her out and she deserved it," adding that Mr. Shimokoji described the incident as "a cultural thing and not a big deal." In Japan at that time there was no law to protect women beaten by husbands and partners.

Mr. Shimokoji's arrest was concurrent with rising activism in Japan. Struggles for gender equality gained energy from the experience of Japanese women at the 1995 International Conference on Women in Beijing. An activist in Nagoya described how "we came back inspired to form a small group and in the first year raised enough money for operating expenses on a donated house. The shelter is always full. We are all volunteers."

Another driving force was the courage of the aging women who, in 1992, began giving public testimony about their experiences with the Japanese military. Between 1930 and 1945 an estimated 200,000 Asian girls and women were abducted to all corners of Japan-occupied Asia and forced to sexually serve soldiers in official "comfort stations." Testimony recorded by the Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery described brutal exploitation

and life-long struggles with sexually transmitted diseases, sterility, poor physical health, mental distress and social isolation.

The deep silence related both to wartime crimes against women and family crimes against women shattered when the comfort women began to speak. Many Japanese women have suggested that this enormous leap of courage inspired women to speak out about domestic violence and sexual abuse.

In October 2001, as a result of growing pressure, Japan passed a law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and Protection of Victims, the last country in Asia to pass such a law. Terribly weak, the law provided only minimal protection through restraining orders and put too much of the burden of proof on the victim, although it did require local governments to provide increased victim services, including a counselling centre in each of Japan's 47 prefectures. In 2004, a bill was drafted to strengthen protection under this law—including children in protection orders and extending the six-month limitation on current restraining orders. Further revisions to that law are currently being passed.

An old Japanese proverb suggests that the Japanese fear only four things: earthquakes, floods, fires and fathers. Japanese women may not be able to do much about the first three, but they are determined to challenge the last. Nobuhiro Suzuki of Fukushima University has written that domestic violence must be framed within the continuing stronghold of patriarchy in which "women are like a piece of furniture." In a country where women are taught that self-sacrifice is noble and suffering is virtuous, the gains of the last years must be deeply admired. ☞



BCASVACP Publication in Japan!

Michiko Ohara, Keiko Horiuchi and Tamami Kumagai in Tokyo with a copy of the BCASVACP's STV Best Practices Manual. The three women are part of a group of Japanese women who came to Vancouver to learn about sexual abuse intervention in 1998. On returning home, the women formed Group Withness. They have written and published six sexual abuse guidebooks (for parents and teachers, young girls and boys, teenage girls, adult female survivors, partners and male survivors), making a significant contribution to raising awareness and providing resources related to familial sexual abuse in Japan.

"CHILD IN THE HOME OF A RELATIVE" (CIHR) BENEFITS



Legal
Services
Society

British Columbia
www.lss.bc.ca



BY ALISON WARD, LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY

The Community Advocate Support Line (CASL) is a dedicated telephone support line for BC advocates. The line is staffed full-time by lawyer Alison Ward, who can give you brief legal information and advice about specific client files in areas including family law and poverty law. The CASL line is part of the Legal Services Society's LawLINE service, and is funded by the Law Foundation and the Ministry of Attorney General.

Advocates and community workers can reach CASL at 604-601-6074 in the Lower Mainland, and toll-free within BC at 1-877-601-6066. These numbers are for advocates' use only; please do not distribute them to the general public. To access legal advice on the CASL line, you must provide Alison with your client's full name and contact information, and the full names of any opposing parties. All information that you give to Alison is confidential and is subject to solicitor-client confidentiality. We have to track this information due to potential conflicts of interest. CASL is part of the LawLINE project, and LawLINE has to know the names of both parties because they can only give advice to one side. The Law Society also requires that we obtain this information.

Sample Call to CASL (fictionalized example, not based on a real client scenario)

Today's last CASL call is from Carmen, a victim support worker in the Interior.

Carmen is phoning on behalf of her client Sara, who, for the past four months, has been taking care of her three-year-old

nephew, Paul. Paul's mother had to leave the country and Sara had expected that she would be back by now. But, Paul's mother's plans have changed and now she is not expected back for another year. Sara works full time and has been trying to make ends meet but, with two children of her own to support, Sara can no longer afford to support her nephew without some financial help. Carmen wonders if there is any help available for Sara.

I tell Carmen that Sara, like any relative who cares for a child residing in the relative's home, may be eligible to receive monthly "Child in the Home of a Relative" (CIHR) benefits from the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance (MEIA).

I explain to Carmen that the criteria for CIHR benefits are contained in section 6 of the Employment and Assistance Regulation (see <http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/PUBLICAT/VOL1/Part3/3-3.htm#6>). The main criteria are:

- (a) the child must reside with a relative,
- (b) the child's parent must have placed the child with the relative,
- (c) the child's parent must not reside with the relative,
- (d) the relative and any other adults aged 18 and over in the relative's household must authorize MEIA to conduct a criminal record check, and to review whether they have had prior contact with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). They must also agree that MEIA can use this information to conduct a safety audit to determine if the relative's home is a safe placement for the child; and

(e) MEIA must decide, after a safety audit, that the relative's home does not pose a level of risk to the child that would make it an inappropriate place for the child.

I tell Carmen that the requirement for criminal record checks, MCFD checks, and a safety audit were added to the CIHR criteria on December 1, 2007, and they also apply to relatives who were receiving CIHR benefits before December 1. I add that a relative who has a "kith and kin agreement" with MCFD is not eligible for CIHR benefits from MEIA. Carmen says that, so far, she thinks Sara may qualify for the CIHR benefit, and is quite excited by that prospect.

"How much is the CIHR benefit?" she asks. I tell Carmen that the benefit rate depends on the age of the child being cared for. There is a chart of the different CIHR rates at <http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/mhr/cihr.htm>. For a three-year-old like Paul, the maximum is \$257.46 per month. I tell Carmen that MEIA expects a child's parent(s) to contribute to the child's care. However, if the parent(s) cannot or do not contribute, MEIA does not pursue the parents for child support. If Paul's mother does contribute to Paul's care, any amounts she gives Sara will be deducted from the CIHR benefit.

"But," says Carmen, "Sara works full-time, and so does her husband. Isn't MEIA the welfare ministry? How can she be eligible for benefits from the welfare ministry?"

I tell Carmen that MEIA is indeed the ministry that administers welfare benefits in BC. But a relative who is caring for a child in their home does not need to be financially eligible for welfare in order to receive CIHR benefits on behalf of the child. The care-giving relative's household income and assets are not considered in determining whether they are eligible for CIHR benefits on behalf of the child.

"What does Sara need to do to show MEIA that Paul's mother placed him with her?" Carmen asks. She explains that before Paul's mother left BC, she wrote a notarized letter giving Sara the authority to care for Paul until further notice. The letter also confirms the sad fact that Paul's father is dead. Carmen wonders if that letter will be enough to help Sara get CIHR

benefits, or whether Sara will need to get a court order for custody and/or guardianship of Paul.

I tell Carmen that the notarized letter may be good enough. Usually, MEIA wants the child's parent to sign the CIHR application form, confirming that they want the relative to care for their child. However, in cases where the parent is not available to sign such a form, MEIA may be persuaded to accept a letter or other document which confirms that the parent wants the relative to care for their son or daughter.

I also explain to Carmen that whether or not Sara has a court order for custody and/or guardianship of Paul, that is not relevant to her eligibility for CIHR benefits.

"How do other benefits, like the child tax benefit, affect CIHR benefits?" asks Carmen. "Are they deducted from the CIHR benefit amount?"

I explain that the Child Tax Benefit, Universal Child Care benefit, and most other benefits paid on behalf of children are not deducted from CIHR benefits. A relative like Sara who is caring for a child can get the Child Tax Benefit and Universal Child Care benefit, and she should apply for those as soon as possible. There are other benefits that some relatives caring for children may qualify for. For example, if the relative is caring for a child whose parent (or parents) have either passed away, or are receiving CPP disability benefits, then the child may be eligible for CPP benefits. There are CPP benefits for children of disabled CPP contributors, and CPP benefits for surviving children of deceased CPP contributors. CPP benefits are not deducted from CIHR benefits. I tell Carmen that the Legal Services Society's family law website has a useful chart with more information about various benefits that may be available to some relatives who care for children. That chart is at http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca/resources/fact_sheets/grandparents_benefits.asp.

Carmen says she can't believe she hasn't heard of CIHR benefits before. She says she has several other clients who are taking care of children who are not their own, and wonders if they might also be eligible for CIHR benefits. She wants to know which types of relatives may be eligible

for CIHR benefits, and whether someone who receives welfare themselves can get the CIHR benefit.

As to which relatives may qualify for CIHR benefits, I point out to Carmen that the Employment and Assistance legislation does not define what categories of “relative” may be eligible for CIHR benefits. I explain that, under the *Human Rights Code*, MEIA has an obligation not to discriminate against someone on the basis of their family status. Because of this, in my view, the term “relative” should be given a broad interpretation, certainly including blood relatives (siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles, etc) and relatives either through marriage or through common-law relationships (e.g. step-parents, step-grandparents, step-auntie, etc).

As to whether someone who receives income assistance can qualify for CIHR benefits, the answer is yes. A relative who receives income assistance and who cares for a relative’s child in their home can get CIHR benefits if they meet all the other criteria for CIHR benefits. I explain that, if an income assistance recipient receives CIHR benefits, that money is not considered “income”

and so is not deducted from their own income assistance check. Where the child cared for is under three, or the child has a physical or mental condition that precludes the relative from leaving home for the purpose of employment, the relative caring for the child will not be required to look for work.

Finally, I remind Carmen that if a relative applies for CIHR benefits on behalf of a child they are caring for, and their application is refused, that person can appeal MEIA’s decision. The first step in an appeal is to file a Request for Reconsideration of MEIA’s decision. That must be done within 20 business days of the day the relative was notified of MEIA’s decision. I tell Carmen that, if any of her clients need to pursue a Request for Reconsideration, she should call me again on the CASL line so I can discuss that process with her and offer some advice.

Carmen thanks me for my assistance, and says she can’t wait to tell Sara and her other clients that there may be some help financial available for them. ☺

**BCASVACP Member’s
Toll-Free Line!
1-877-633-2505**



Events

Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute Trainings

Responding to Trauma: March 10, 2008

Self-Harm Behaviour in Youth—Issues and Strategies: March 11, 2008

For more information: www.ctrinstitute.com or Toll Free: 877-353-3205.

Fitting the Forum to the Family: Emerging Challenges for Family Courts

May 28-31, 2008

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Conference at the Westin Bayshore Resort in Vancouver. More information at www.afccnet.org.

Waves of Resistance: Pan-Canadian Young Feminist Gathering

11th, 12th and 13th of October 2008 – Montreal

Mobilize, network, energize, and deepen the roots of the young feminist movement across Canada! Contact the Organizing committee at info@rebelles2008.org or Barbara Legault at the Quebec Women's Federation: 514-876-0166 ext. 253. Please mention your province or territory when you contact us. <http://www.rebelles2008.org>.



JUSTICE
INSTITUTE
of
BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Special Event

Treating Complex Psychological Trauma: A Clinical Course on Effective Approaches and Strategies (SPE148)



Dr. Lori Haskell EdD, C.Psych., is a clinical psychologist in private practice with over 20 years of experience. She is an assistant professor in psychiatry at the University of Toronto and an academic research associate with the Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children, at the University of Western Ontario. Dr. Haskell has written a book entitled *First Stage Trauma Treatment: A Guide for Therapists Working with Women*.

The treatment of survivors of chronic abuse presents many challenges, including complex diagnosis, treatment staging, and relational dilemmas. In the past decade, there have been remarkable advances in both understanding and treatment approaches concerning abuse-related trauma. The treatment model presented for complex PTSD is a nonpathologizing, developmentally informed approach that integrates cognitive-behavioural and psychodynamic perspectives. This model moves away from the idea of understanding discrete "symptoms," towards a more sophisticated and integrated understanding of how survivors adapt to and cope with the long-term effects of chronic abuse.

This course offers a conceptual framework for the delivery of effective clinical interventions with abuse survivors. Specific techniques and approaches will be taught that will assist in addressing affect regulation, chronic intrusion and hyperarousal, trauma-related schemata, attachment difficulties, and re-enactments.

Date: April 24 – 25, 2008
Location: JIBC New Westminster Campus
Fee: \$295; group rate, \$275 (plus \$5 LSF)
(Group rate applies when 3 or more register at the same time.)
Early Bird Rate: \$260; group rate \$240 (plus \$5 LSF) (before February 29, 2008)
Time: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm (registration opens at 8:30)

For more information, visit our website at www.jibc.cfcs/lorihaskell or contact Caroline White at 604.528.5620 or carolinew@jibc.ca.

Register early, as seating is limited. Call 604.528.5590 or 1.877.528.5591



Resources

Check our website regularly for more new resources...

Funding for Women to Attend Court in Other Communities

We have received a number of calls asking about this. Find information at <http://www.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/voc/funding.html>

New Book: *The War on Women*

A new book from Key Porter Books: *The War on Women: Elly Armour, Jane Hurshman, and Criminal Domestic Violence in Canadian Homes*, by Brian Vallee. Foreword by Stephen Lewis. Uses Canadian examples of domestic violence to demonstrate the need for “dramatic shakeup in North American legislative, law-enforcement, and judicial approaches to domestic criminal violence.” Ask for the title at your independent bookstore!

Useful E-Bulletins

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence:

subscribe at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/>

Legal Services Society:

subscribe at <http://www.lss.bc.ca>.

Information Services Vancouver:

subscribe at <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/isv/>

Highway of Tears Newsletter, January 2008

Includes updates about the work being done on the Highway of Tears initiative, through Carrier Sekani Family Services. Download the newsletter at their website.

Safety and Health Enhancement (SHE) Framework for Women Experiencing Abuse

By Jill Cory and Lynda Dechief, with Louise Godard

Published by the BC Women’s Hospital and Health Centre and the BC Institute Against Family Violence, with funding from National Crime Prevention Centre. As featured at the 2007 BCASVACP Training Forum. Download from our website on the [Links to More Anti-Violence Resources page](#).

Empowerment of Immigrant and Refugee Women Who are Victims of Violence in Their Intimate Relationships

The Justice Institute of BC’s report on research into what service delivery factors in the health care, social service, and justice systems are uniquely empowering and disempowering to immigrant women who are victims of violence in their relationships. To receive an electronic version of the report free of charge, contact cfc@jibc.ca. Hard copies are also available for purchase.

B C A S V A C P B O A R D M E M B E R S

REGION 1 – NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND

Jennifer Woods
Community Based Victim Assistance Program
Comox Valley Family Services Association
1415 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay, BC V9N 2K6
Ph: (250) 338-7575 local 226
Fax: (250) 338-2343
Email: jen.w@cvfssa.org

REGION 2 – SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND

Cathy Welch, Co-Chair
Stopping the Violence
Counselling Program
Cowichan Women Against Violence
103-255 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC V9L 1P3
Ph: (250) 748-7000 ext. 223
Fax: (250) 748-9364
Email: cwelch@cwav.org

REGION 3 – LOWER MAINLAND

Brigit Atkinson
Stopping the Violence Counselling Program
Family Services of Greater Vancouver
301 – 321 6th Street, New Westminster,
BC V3L 3A7
Ph: (604) 525-9144 ext. 425
Fax: (604) 524-9455
Email: batkinson@fsgv.ca

REGION 3 – Floating Seat *vacant*

REGION 4 – FRASER VALLEY

Sonya E. Boyce
Stopping the Violence Counselling
Program/ Community Based Victim
Assistance Program
Surrey Women's Centre Society
P.O. Box 33519 Central City, Surrey
BC V3T 5R5
Ph: (604) 589-1868 local 223
Fax: (604) 589-2812
Email: sb@surreywomencentre.ca

REGION 5 – INTERIOR

Jan Cotterell
Community Based Victim Services
Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE)
Society
P.O.Box 1463, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P6
Ph: (250) 832-0005
Fax: ((250) 832-0037
Email: cbvap@sunwave.net

REGION 6 – OKANAGAN

Aimee Thompson
Community Based Victim
Assistance Program
Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society
104 – 347 Leon Avenue, Kelowna,
BC V1Y 8C7
Ph: (250) 763-4613
Fax: (250) 763-4272
Email: efry@telus.net

REGION 7 – EAST KOOTENAYS

Jasmine Lothien
Stopping the Violence
Counselling Program
Creston & District Community Resource
Centre
P.O. Box 187, Creston, BC V0B 1G0
Ph: (250) 428-5547
Fax: (250) 428-5175
Email: jazzylothien@yahoo.ca

REGION 8 – WEST KOOTENAYS

Marsha Early
Community Based Victim Assistance Program
The Advocacy Centre
#201 – 182 Baker Street, Nelson, BC V1L 1H2
Ph: (250) 352-5777
Fax: (250) 352-5723
Email: mearly1@telus.net

REGION 9 – NORTH WEST

Grainne Barthe
Stopping the Violence
Counselling Program
North Coast Transition Society
#8 - 222 West 3rd Avenue, 2nd Floor,
Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L1
Ph: (250) 627-4793
Fax: (250) 624-3919
Email: gbncts@citytel.net

REGION 10 – NORTH CENTRAL

Bally Bassi
Community Based Victim
Assistance Program
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry
Society
1575 – Fifth Avenue, Prince George, BC
V2L 3L9
Ph: (250) 563-1113 ext 108
Fax (250) 563-8765
Email: bally@pgefry.bc.ca

REGION 11 – NORTH EAST

Nancy Taylor
Stopping the Violence Counselling Program
Robson Valley Home Support Society
Box 430, McBride, BC V0J 2E0
Ph: (250) 569-2266 (McBride)
(250) 566-9107 (Valemount)
Fax: (250) 569-2200
Email: nancy_t@telus.net

B C A S V A C P S T A F F

Tracy Porteous
(Contact for all CBVAP Programs)
Executive Director
porteous@endingviolence.org

Habiba Rashid
Office Manager
bcasvaccp@endingviolence.org

Susan Armstrong
Program Manager and
Safe Choices Coordinator
armstrong@endingviolence.org
(Contact for STV Programs)

Harjit Kaur
Special Projects Manager
kaur@endingviolence.org
(Contact for CBVAP and
STV Outreach Programs)

Sarah Leavitt
Communications Coordinator
for BCASVACP and CCWS
leavitts@endingviolence.org

Alison Timmons
CCWS Administrative Assistant
ccws@endingviolence.org

COMMUNITY COORDINATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY PROGRAM

Gail Edinger
Regional Coordinator
100 Mile House
250-397-2389 *rosebud@bcinternet.net*

Michelle Novakowski
Regional Coordinator
Nanaimo
250-751-2881 *micheno@telus.net*

Gisela Ruebsaat
Issues Analyst (contractor)
Victoria
250-592-3073 *gisela2@horizon.bc.ca*

Mission Statement

The BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs works to coordinate and support the work of victim serving and other anti-violence programs in BC through the provision of issue based consultation and analysis of resource development, training, research and education. Our work is guided by respect for difference, human dignity and equality.

Membership

We work to address the needs of Specialized Victim Assistance Programs, Sexual Assault, Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs and other similar programs. The BCASVACP provides support, training, education, policy and legislative analysis, resource development, and information exchange forums to its member programs.

Your membership will support the BCASVACP in continuing many important services, including the development of analysis, representation on various government committees, administration tools development, and training.

A membership will ensure that your organization has access to the most current information available. Your BCASVACP membership acts also as a voice of community support for our continued working on behalf of your programs.

We always welcome your input and questions. For more information about what BCASVACP membership is all about, contact 604-633-2506, extension 10, or email bcasvaccp@endingviolence.org.

We wish to thank the Ministry of Community Services and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General for their funding support.



**BC Association of
Specialized Victim Assistance
& Counselling Programs**

Our program wants to be a BCASVACP member. Membership fees are on a sliding scale between \$60 to \$160. (Whatever your program can afford)

I do not qualify for program membership. I would still like to receive the BCASVACP tri-annual newsletters (\$25)

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Website: _____ E-mail: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to the BC Assn. of Specialized Victim Assistance & Counselling Programs and forward to #728 – 602 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1P2

Charitable # 13926 5821 RR0001