



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

Agreement# 40063171

Working in Partnership With the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada



by Cheryl Fraehlich

"The survivors' stories are something that I will carry with me always. I continue to be inspired by their tremendous strength and ability to carry on in the face of so much pain." Ginelle Giacomini, RESOLVE Statement Gatherer.

As part of their mandate to create a public historical record that documents what happened in residential schools and the impact of these schools, the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada** (TRC) has the monumental task of gathering statements about residential school experiences from former students, their families and communities across Canada. RESOLVE Manitoba is excited to be collaborating with the TRC to facilitate statement gathering in Winnipeg and other parts of the province. RESOLVE Saskatchewan is undertaking a similar project.

In February, 2010, **Dr. Jane Ursel** was invited to discuss the potential for a partnership with representatives of the TRC. The focus of these discussions was RESOLVE's history of partnering with community agencies on other projects and how such a model might be used to facilitate statement gathering within Winnipeg, home to the largest urban population of Aboriginal people in Canada. These discussions laid the foundation for a collaborative agreement between RESOLVE, the TRC and the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development, who provides financial support for statement gatherers.

Hiring and training individuals to work as statement gatherers was, in fact, one of the first steps in the project. The RESOLVE Manitoba statement gathering team consists of a group of truly wonderful people; the

team includes a mix of men and women of different ages, and students and community members. All but one is Aboriginal and a few speak Aboriginal languages in addition to English. All of our statement gatherers are very caring and dedicated individuals who are eager to do anything they can to help survivors share stories about the residential school experience.

Their work began at the first of seven national public events organized by the TRC and held at The Forks National Historic Site in Winnipeg June 16–19. These national events are opportunities to honour those impacted by residential schools, and to promote awareness among the Canadian public by providing education about the history of the residential schools system. Between 30,000 and 40,000 people, including residential school survivors, their families, community members, TRC Commissioners and a number of dignitaries, were in attendance over the four days. In addition to statement taking in private and public forums, the national gathering included many ceremonies, exhibitions and activities related to education and research. Along with the 14 RESOLVE Manitoba statement gatherers, ten statement gatherers from RESOLVE Saskatchewan travelled to Winnipeg to work gathering private statements at the event. In

Partnership with the TRC... cont'd on page 6

Inside this issue ...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. Torn From Our Midst | 5. RESOLVE Alberta Update |
| 3. RESOLVE Manitoba Update | 6. Partnership With the TRC, con't. |
| 4. RESOLVE Saskatchewan Update | 7. Announcements / Conferences |
| | 8. Prairieaction Update |

Torn From Our Midst: Voices of Grief, Healing and Action from the Missing Indigenous Women Conference, 2008

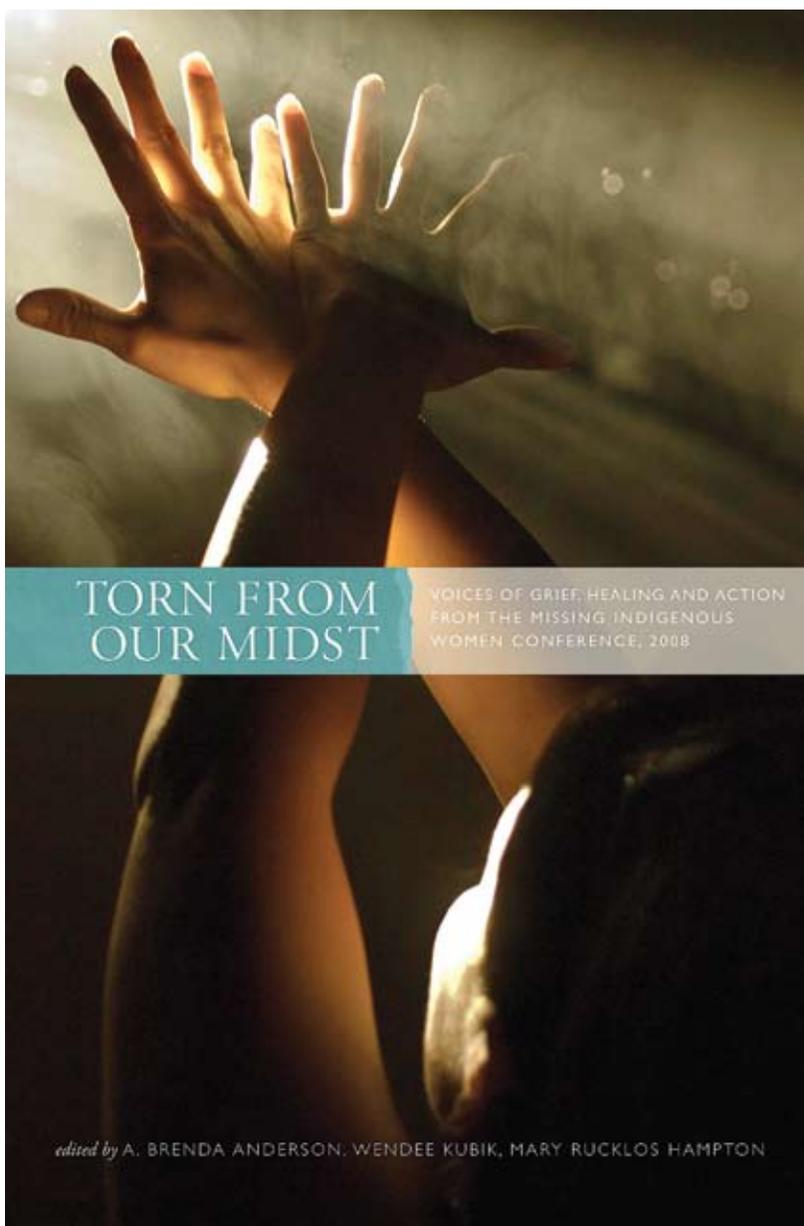


edited by A. Brenda Anderson, Wendee Kubik, and Mary Rucklos Hampton

The anger, grief, courage, compassion, and hope we hear in these voices inspire and compel us—to remember those who are missing and to work for healing and justice.

- Since 1980, more than 520 Aboriginal women have been reported missing or murdered in Canada.
- From 1993-2003, 370 women were murdered in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua, Mexico.
- Since 2001, more than 2,000 Guatemalan women and girls have been brutally murdered.

Responding to the profound tragedy inherent in these statistics, more than 300 women and men gathered in August 2008 at a conference entitled Missing Women: Decolonization, Third Wave Feminisms, and Indigenous People of Canada and Mexico. Here, personal stories and theoretical tools were brought together, as academics, activists, family members of missing and murdered women, police, media, policy-makers, justice workers, and members of faith communities offered their perspectives on the issue of racialized, sexualized violence.



Torn from Our Midst includes images and voices from the conference, together with additional reflections, both academic and personal, on the effects of violence and the possibilities for healing. The purpose of this volume is to raise awareness about missing and murdered women and to challenge communities to be courageous enough to look at the heart of this issue, to recognize the systems that allow such atrocities, and to seek justice and healing for all.

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Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

Summer is always a very busy time for RESOLVE. Students are available for summer hours of employment and new projects get started. This summer has been no exception. We began and completed an assessment of Elder Abuse services in Manitoba at the request of the **Manitoba Seniors and Healthy Living Secretariat** and were heavily involved in the **National Event** of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**, as discussed in our cover story. We continue to work on the Healing Journey project. Although the interviews have been completed there is a great deal of work to be done cleaning and working with the data we have collected. In addition, the **Prairie Action Foundation** has once again been very generous with their CARE Grants, and is continuing their support of our work on the Healing Journey Project in all three provinces.



Dr. Joan Durrant

We are pleased to have a number of announcements as we begin the new academic year. While Jane Ursel is on sabbatical, RESOLVE is very privileged to have **Dr. Joan Durrant** as the Acting Director.

Joan Durrant is a Child-Clinical Psychologist and Professor of Family Social Sciences at the University of Manitoba, where she teaches courses on violence against children, and risk and resilience in development. Her research focuses on the role of public policy in upholding children's right to protection – in particular, the role of law, human rights frameworks and public education. She was the principal researcher and co-author of the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth*; a member of the Research Advisory Committee of the United Nations Secretary-

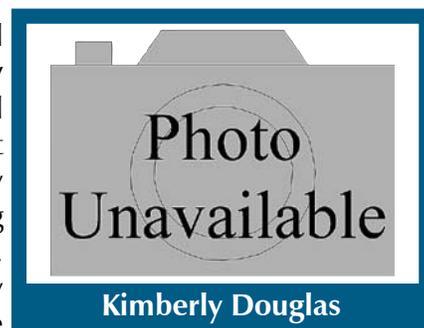
General's Study on Violence against Children; a member of the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Corporal Punishment; and a co-editor of *Eliminating Corporal Punishment: The Way Forward to Constructive Discipline* (UNESCO). She has been active in public education on child maltreatment prevention in Canada and internationally, and has written books for parents and teachers on non-violent discipline. She is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development*.

We are also pleased to announce our two **Carolynne Biovin Bursary** award recipients for 2010. Our first recipient is **Sheri Bell**, a third year honours student in Sociology. Sheri works at RESOLVE and took the lead in interviewing for the Elder Abuse project this summer and played a key role in the analysis and write up of the report. Her interest in this field has grown out of her summer work with RESOLVE and the Centre on Aging. Sheri will be doing her Honour's Thesis on Seniors' sense of independence and isolation, analyzing some innovative photo novella data.



Sheri Bell

Our second award recipient, **Kimberly Douglas**, is a third year Arts student at the University interested in pursuing a career in nursing. She is particularly interested in the



Kimberly Douglas

of nurses as first line responders to victims of domestic violence. Health care professionals are often the first to hear the story or see the consequences of interpersonal violence. Therefore, it is very good news that people like Kimberly, with a specific interest in domestic violence, are entering the health professions. We wish both Kimberly and Sheri best wishes in their promising careers. ❀

Saskatchewan Update: Why a Healing Room at Conferences?



by Mary Hampton and Elder Betty McKenna

When the RESOLVE Research Day was hosted by Saskatchewan in 2009, we resolved to offer a Healing Room hosted by **Elder Betty McKenna**. This brief update provides our rationale for providing such a room for participants and presenters. Note that this article is written by Dr. Hampton from the perspective of a non-Aboriginal psychologist. I have learned much about healing from my own practice as a psychologist but more profoundly, from Aboriginal healers who have crossed my path and given teachings from a traditional Aboriginal perspective.

The idea for providing this space at the conference came from the successful provision of a Healing Room at the *Missing Women* conference (www.missingwomenregina.com). At the RESOLVE Research Day in 2009, we invited participants from the *Healing Journey* study and felt the need to provide opportunities for healing during the day. The definition of *healing* used for the purpose of this brief article is taken from my friend **Dr. Richard Katz's** work with Indigenous healers across the world and goes like this:

Healing is the transitioning toward meaning, balance, wholeness and connectedness.

This definition works for people who have been touched by intimate partner violence, not only participants but academics and service providers as well. Those of us who enter this field of research often have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) personally, or witnessed those who we love experience IPV, so we believed that providing a healing room would benefit presenters and all those who attend such a conference.

Because we often have a personal experience with the topic, research is not an "objective" experience. From a healing point of view, we may be triggered into a trauma response while attending Research Day. As Elder

McKenna states, humans have several bodies: physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. While listening to stories of IPV, any of these bodies may be in need of healing. While we expect that only our mental bodies are present at these academic conference, presenters and participants could experience an overwhelming experience of trauma in our physical, emotional, or spiritual bodies.

Where do we go to feel safe if we experience trauma in any of our bodies? Well, we offer a healing room, and the presence of our Elder who can assist with healing.



Healing Room at RESOLVE Saskatchewan Research Day 2009

At RESOLVE Saskatchewan Research Day we provided a safe "healing room" so that people who were unexpectedly triggered could go to feel safe and receive healing. In this room, Elder Betty set up a space that contained elements for healing and safety: colours of the four directions represented by cloth, i.e., blue, white, red, and yellow; the four natural elements (earth, wind, water, fire) present in candles, rocks, scents of roses, sage, cedar and willow.

The sacred space encouraged us to engage our spirits by entering into the body. Sound was engaged with the use of calming nature sounds; taste with herbal teas; and touch with a rocking chair and cozy blankets. **Chelsea Millman** assisted Elder Betty in many ways by making sage bundles for people who visited the room to take with them, and setting up the sacred space through prayer and ceremony.

Although this space was not used by many participants (most likely due to the location), we will continue to provide this space at conferences so that participants and presenters are aware the room is available, and will encourage the creation of a safe, healing space for all conferences. ❀

Alberta Update



by Leslie M. Tutty

RESOLVE Alberta recently completed a research report entitled *Persons with disabilities across the lifespan: Program scan and community stakeholder needs assessment*, written by **Leslie Tutty, Kellie Moorey, Sarah Anne LeDrew, Deborah Jesso, Lisa Ondejko** and **Choni Tenzin**. The project Research Advisory Team consisted of **Linda White**, former executive director of the *Alliance to End Violence*; **Karen Walroth**, past executive director of the Alliance to End Violence; and Kellie Moorey, the then *Persons with Disabilities Coordinator*. Project team members included **Eva Chan** (*Alliance to End Violence – Older Persons Initiative*), **Carol Fredrec** (*Multiple Sclerosis Society*), **Maggie MacKillop** (*HomeFront*), **Chad Goebel** (*Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre*) and **Debb Hurlock** (*United Way/Faculty of Social Work*). The project was funded by the **Prairieaction Foundation**.

The report presents a literature review on the incidence, prevalence and core features of abuse to children, adults and seniors with disabilities, including a comprehensive search of resources across various forms of violence and disabilities that could guide the development of an Alberta-made strategy to address disabilities and domestic and sexual assault. It also presents the result of in-depth qualitative interviews with 20 community representatives from both the disabilities and the violence fields.

The key stakeholders concur that persons with disabilities who experience abuse have a number of special needs that, in many ways, are not being met by the continuum of services in Calgary. The majority of the stakeholders agreed that persons with disabilities experience physical, attitudinal, language and communication barriers that are exacerbated by the increasing population in Calgary. Among the physical barriers were inaccessibility to transportation, buildings and services such as shelters. Social barriers include attitudes against persons with disabilities such as sexual myths and assumptions, which were communicated through popular culture, reinforcing their marginalized position. Lastly, poverty and isolation were also barriers to participating in services and community activities. Funding barriers were also mentioned in terms of agencies' ability to staff appropriately.

However, almost half of the stakeholders identified attempts by local community agencies to better address these issues including the accessibility of interpreters through **HomeFront** and shelters such as the **Kerby Rotary House**. A number of recommendations are provided, acknowledging that the Alliance to End Violence Action Committee on Disabilities and Abuse team must negotiate the priorities in a manner that fits with the Calgary community and resources. The team has already initiated activities that address several of the recommendations, such as the January 2010 conference entitled *Ending Abuse of Persons with Disabilities*, with guest speaker, **Dr. Dick Sobsey** from the University of Alberta, an internationally renowned researcher in the fields of disability and abuse. The report is available from tutty@ucalgary.ca.



Other RESOLVE Alberta News

The **RESOLVE Research Day** is being held in Calgary this year on Wednesday, November 17, at the Olympic Volunteer Centre near the University of Calgary. Our key-note speaker is **Anne Troy**, Assistant Professor of Nursing from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centre and will speak on *Teens NOT Gone Wild*. Anne, the originator of *Girls Not Gone Wild*, developed the peer-driven prevention program in response to the rampant sexual violence occurring during Mardi Gras and victimization myths perpetrated by media images.



Anne Troy

Over twenty-five additional research presentations will be offered. The registration fee is \$40 (students \$10), which includes lunch. We hope to entice many of you to come to hear top notch researchers on domestic violence and other abuse issues from the prairie provinces and beyond. Please e-mail **Carole Cillis** at ccillis@ucalgary.ca, or **Leslie Tutty** at tutty@ucalgary.ca, for registration forms and additional information. ❧

Partnership with the TRC cont'd from page 1

Photo used with permission from Fred Cattroll and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Unity Riders Attend the Truth and Reconciliation Commission National Event in Winnipeg, MB

275 private statements were gathered. Younger statement gatherers from both RESOLVE teams also participated in the Circle of Youth sharing circle, during which youth told stories related to the impact of residential schools on themselves and their families.

Following the national event, a debriefing session was held with the Manitoba team. Everyone was asked to reflect on the event and to describe how they felt after that experience. The overall consensus was that although the experience was at times overwhelming and at times difficult, it was also very humbling, very meaningful and, for some, a life changing experience. **Ken Letander** noted that:

"I am thankful for this experience and very humbled. I will do anything I can to assist survivors through the process of telling their stories."

Significant attention has been paid to ensuring the well-being of individuals who want to provide statements before, during, and after the statement gathering process. For both the TRC and RESOLVE, it is critical that individuals are treated with dignity and respect, provided with support and offered safe, culturally appropriate spaces in which to give their statements. Statement providers can share anything about their residential experience that they wish to share and they can provide statements in written, audio or video recorded formats. The TRC has provided high quality audio and video recording systems that allow for the production of a CD or DVD of statements that can be given to the statement provider immediately following the statement. Statement providers are welcome to have a personal support present during the statement and Health Canada support workers are also present during each statement as a source of support. Through the Health Canada support services, statement providers

can choose between traditional cultural supports or general counsellors. There is also a national crisis line that is available 24 hours a day, seven days per week, should a statement provider need support; ongoing support can also be applied for. All of these support resources are also available to statement gatherers.

In addition to the working at the national event, a few of the RESOLVE statement gatherers have travelled to community events organized by the TRC outside of Winnipeg to gather statements. This fall, we will be working as smaller teams to recruit individuals who might be interested in providing statements. We have three academic facilitators, including **Joan Durrant**, Acting Director of RESOLVE in Jane Ursel's absence; **Cheryl Fraehlich**, from RESOLVE Manitoba; and **Jane Murray** from the University of Winnipeg. Each academic facilitator will work with four statement gatherers to provide guidance, supervision and support. Information about the project will be presented at community agencies within Winnipeg and, through these presentations and written information about the project left at the agencies for distribution, individuals interested in providing a statement can learn about the statement gathering project and call for information or to schedule a meeting.

RESOLVE is truly honoured to part of the statement gathering process. The stories that are shared will form an important part of Canada's historical record of the Indian Residential School system. Allowing these stories and exposing the truth about the residential schools can begin the healing process and help future generations. ❧



Photo used with permission from Fred Cattroll and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Drummers Attend the Truth and Reconciliation Commission National Event in Winnipeg, MB

Background photo used with permission from Fred Cattroll and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



October 15, 2010 - Prairie Women`s Health Centre of Excellence First Annual General Meeting, hosted by Prairie Women`s Health Centre of Excellence. The event will be held in the Winnipeg, Manitoba, at the Greenwood Inn Hotel, 1715 Wellington Avenue. Lunch – 11:45 a.m.; Annual General Meeting – 12 p.m.; and the panel presentation on current work, followed by Q & A is at 12:35 p.m. Tickets are \$20. RSVP to p.chalmers@uwinnipeg.ca or phone (204) 982-6630.

Tuesday Evenings, October 26 to December 14, 2010 - Healing from Abuse Group: 8 sessions, 6:30–9PM, presented by the Fort Garry Women`s Resource Centre in Winnipeg, MB. This is a group for women who are coping with the impact of partner and/or childhood abuse. Topics explored will be recognizing and defining abuse, ways of coping, naming the losses associated with abuse, dealing with difficult emotions, building self esteem, and learning to be assertive. For more information, or to register, please call (204) 477-1123 by **October 15, 2010**. Limited space. In-person intake with facilitator is required.

November 3, 4 & 5, 2010 - National Research Day 2010 - Engaging Our Communities: Working Together to End Intimate Partner Violence, hosted by the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre, University of New Brunswick. The event will be held at the UNB, Wu Conference Centre, 6 Duffie Drive, Fredericton, NB. For session information, refer to www.unb.ca/fredericton/arts/centres/mmfc/news/index.html. For additional information, please e-mail fvrc@unb.ca, or (506) 453-3595.

November 17, 2010 - RESOLVE Research Day, hosted by RESOLVE Alberta. The event will be held at the Olympic Volunteer Centre, University of Calgary, in Calgary, Alberta. Key-note speaker is **Anne Troy**, Assistant Professor of Nursing from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centre. Anne is the originator of **Girls Not Gone Wild**, developed the peer driven prevention program in response to the rampant sexual violence occurring during Mardi Gras and victimization myths perpetrated by media images. Over twenty additional research presentations will be offered. Registration is \$40, and includes lunch. For registration forms and additional information, please e-mail Carole Cillis at ccillis@ucalgary.ca, or Dr. Leslie Tutty at tutty@ucalgary.ca.

November 17–19, 2010 - Current Issues in Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Conference, hosted by the Ontario Network of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence (ONSA/DV) Treatment Centres & The Suspected Child Abuse & Neglect (SCAN) Program (SickKids). The event will be held at the University of Toronto Conference Centre, 89 Chestnut Street, Toronto, Ontario. Designed for an interdisciplinary audience, this conference will provide up-to-date information on current issues in sexual assault, domestic violence and child maltreatment. Lectures and workshops will promote interaction with the opportunity to advance knowledge and skills. For more information, please e-mail Brenda Rau, Conference Coordinator at info.scan@sickkids.ca.



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We're finding solutions to protect women and children from violence and abuse!

Phone: 1-877-926-8129 / Fax: 1-877-947-9767

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Web site: www.prairieactionfoundation.ca

2010 Prairieaction Foundation CARE Grant Recipients



Prairieaction Foundation would like to congratulate the following recipients of our **2010 CARE Grants**. This program furthers our goal to support community-based research into solutions to violence and abuse by funding qualifying charitable organizations for research projects that identify potential strategies, models and methods to ultimately eliminate these issues.

Avenue Community Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity Inc. (Saskatoon, SK): *Woman to Woman Abuse Project* \$14,800

Changing Together– a Centre for Immigrant Women (Edmonton, AB): *Baseline Study of Human Trafficking in Alberta* \$15,000

Family Service Saskatoon (Saskatoon, SK): *Saskatoon Community Partners for Violence Free Families—Whole Family Programming Project* \$13,684

Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin (Winnipeg, MB): *Women Helping One Another: Evaluation of Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin Inc.* \$6,992

Nova House (Selkirk, MB): *Data Management and Analysis for the Healing Journey* \$7,525

Peace River Regional Women's Shelter Society: *Data Management and Analysis for the Healing Journey Project in Alberta* \$7,500

Regina Transitions Women's Society: *Data Management and Analysis for the Healing Journey* \$7,500

YWCA Calgary: *Service Needs of Women Mandated to Domestic Violence Counselling by Child and Family Services* \$12,000

For more information on these projects, please visit the Foundation website at www.prairieactionfoundation.ca. ☞

RESOLVE Manitoba

~ Dr. Joan Durrant ~
Acting Director (Academic)

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