



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

Agreement# 40063171

The Truth In Sentencing Act

✂ ✂ ✂
by Jane Ursel



This past year we have heard a great deal about a number of amendments that the Harper government was introducing to the **Criminal Code of Canada** (CCC). These amendments would make significant changes to how justice was done in Canada. One item of particular relevance to family violence victims and accused is limiting judges' discretion regarding credit given a convicted offender for time spent in pre-sentence custody (remand) at the time of sentencing. The old "two for one" practice has been put to a halt. For example, prior to this amendment, if an accused was held in remand for four months and then decided to plead guilty and if their sentence was eight months incarceration, the convicted offender would walk out of court having "served" their time because they were given two days credit for every day in remand. The new Act, entitled the **Truth in Sentencing Act**, came into force February 22, 2012. This Act establishes a maximum credit of one day for every day served in remand with a possibility of a maximum credit of one and one-

half days for every day served in remand if justified. However, if the offender is detained due to a breach of their conditions of release on bail or due to their criminal record, the credit for time served is limited to one day for each day in remand.

Further, this Act requires the Courts to set out the reasons for award of credit for time served in excess of one day for every day in remand. At the correctional level it is anticipated that this will reduce pressure on remand facilities, However, the Act could increase pressure on jails, as this is likely to increase the length of sentences. From the perspective of keeping victims safe this seems like a good and fair measure, But we know from experience that often the best intended policies could have unintended effects.

If an accused cannot get additional credit for pre-sentence time in custody, will this decrease their motivation to plead guilty? Will this increase the likelihood they may opt to go to trial and then the victim will have to testify? Given that we know victims are often reluctant to testify, will this result

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“It’s Nothing, Get Over It”: The Normalization of Nonphysical Forms of Violence in the Lives of Youth



by Kathy Levine and Jocelyn Proulx

A recent study of the experiences of violence of 576 youth from Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec, revealed that within the past year 44% had been verbally abused in the community; 58% experienced verbal abuse in school; 46% were verbally abused by peers; and 42% experienced verbal abuse by a family member. A significant proportion of these youth experienced emotional violence in these settings once a week or almost every day: 25% in school settings; 22% by peers; 15% in the community; and 35% at home. Youth perceived that they were targeted due to their age, their sex, and/or their appearance (height, weight, style of dress, hair color and style, and tattoos/scars/piercings).

Verbal abuse in all settings was found to be upsetting to some degree by the majority of youth (62% to 78%). Disclosures of verbal abuse occurred more when it happened in the community (61%) and least when it happened at school (45%). Those who did disclose were more likely to receive help if the disclosure was about verbal abuse in the community (44%) and in the family (40%). In cases of disclosure about abuse at school, only 23% of the people told did anything to help the youth and 28% provided help when disclosure was about verbal abuse by peers. Responses to disclosures included active intervention, advice and support, and minimization. Minimization was highest (33%) and active intervention was lowest (13%) for community based verbal abuse. Active assistance increased for school and peer based verbal abuse (33%) but was highest for family based abuse (62%). Minimization was similar for abuse in school (11%), with peers (8%) and with family (9%). Except in the context of family, giving support and advice was the most common form of assistance given.

Previous studies have demonstrated that calling someone names or insulting them negatively affects their sense of self (i.e. Jiwani, Steenbergen, & Mitchel, 2006). Most youth in this study were upset by these experiences, with 25% to 45% being quite or extremely upset. Yet, despite their degree of upset, most youth did not disclose these incidents. Nondisclosures can result in general perceptions

that these experiences are not harmful and are an “expected” part of adolescent life, and indeed the youth in this study believed they were in part targeted because of their age. The normalization of verbal abuse results in a hesitancy to disclose on the part of youth and a lack of knowledge about effective responses to disclosures on the part of adults, as seen in the degree of minimization of community based verbal abuse. Interestingly, it was the community based abuse that was the most upsetting to youth (45% being quite or extremely upset by it) and the most disclosed form of abuse, but it received the least active response.

The results of this study indicate that more attention needs to be given to verbally abusive behaviour in awareness and intervention programs. Without the same attention that has been given to physical violence, verbal abuse has become a normalized part of the everyday lives of youth. This prevalent but relatively unacknowledged form of abuse will likely continue, unreported and adversely affecting youth’s sense of self, unless addressed through specific systemic responses. ✂

*Jiwani, Y., Steenbergen, C., Mitchel, C. (2006). **Girlhood, the Canadian terrain: Redefining the limits.** Montreal, QC: Black Rose Books.*



Manitoba Update



by Jane Ursel

2012 Recipients of the Carolynne Boivin Bursary



Mariah Baldwin

We are very pleased to announce the 2012 recipients of the **Boivin Bursary Award**. Our two recipients are **Mariah Baldwin** and **Janine Bramadat**, both of whom are working on their M.A. thesis in the Department of Sociology. Mariah is studying the operation and impact of Domestic Violence Death Review Committees in comparison to Judicial Inquiries and Janine will be examining domestic violence intervention and prevention programs for new Canadians. Both topics are extremely important to our goal of reducing violence and abuse in our society and their findings will make a substantial contribution



Janine Bramadat

to the field. Congratulations Mariah and Janine!



New Projects

Although it is hard to say goodbye to the warm days of summer, fall often brings exciting beginnings. One new project for RESOLVE Manitoba is an evaluation of the Ndinawe Child and Youth Care Certificate Program (NCYCCP). The NCYCCP was established in 2007 and is a full time, Red River College accredited training program for individuals who have exited the sex trade. The knowledge that these students derive from their experience serves as an important preventative measure in informing and promoting positive choices when working with youth who are themselves at risk for sexual exploitation. In addition to providing training through course work and practicum placements in agencies serving children, youth, and families throughout Winnipeg, the full-time, 11 month program is offered in a safe community environment that also provides much needed healing and cultural supports for students. Student success is enhanced through the use of a holistic model that provides life skills training, counselling, and a variety of healing supports integrated with cultural values and teachings. The evaluation, which is funded by a Prairieaction Foundation CARE grant, will include interviews with program stakeholders including collateral agencies, program staff, students from each of the five cohorts of the program, and family members of students. Information from this evaluation will be used to contribute to improved services and better

outcomes for individuals who were sexually exploited during their youth

There are more Aboriginal children in the care of child welfare across Canada today than there were during the height of the residential school and the 60's scoop. The residual effects of colonization such as poverty, trauma, and substance abuse which are responsible for the heightened risk for Aboriginal children to come into care, also dramatically increase their risk for alcohol-related disabilities. Working with Dr. Jason Brown from the University of Western Ontario, we are beginning work on another project this fall entitled Experiences of Aboriginal Foster Parents with Children in the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum. This is a five year SSHRC funded study that will describe what Aboriginal parents who foster Aboriginal children with FASD see as their spiritual, mental, emotional and physical needs for placement success and gaps and barriers to meeting these needs. The first year of the study will involve qualitative interviews with Aboriginal foster parents and child protection workers in Manitoba to assess the needs and challenges experienced by foster parents. This will be followed by concept mapping of the interview data and the development of a questionnaire to determine the prevalence of the identified needs and challenges in a large sample of Aboriginal foster parents. ☸

RESOLVE Saskatchewan Conducts Research on Female Sexuality and Intimate Partner Violence



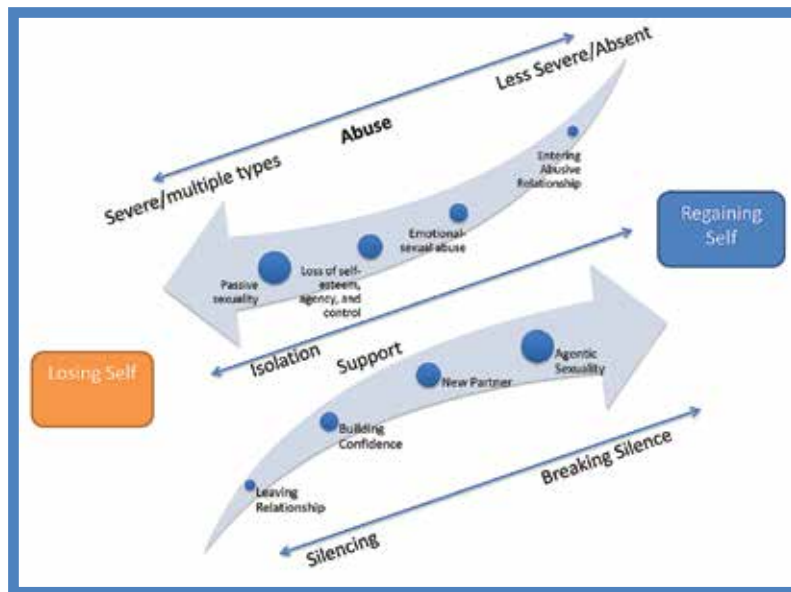
by Danaka R. Safinuk

I am so pleased to report that I have completed my Master's thesis research this summer with use of data from the *Healing Journey Study* (P.I. Jane Ursel). This article will briefly summarize my Master's thesis work. This thesis used qualitative methodology, and was titled *Female Sexuality and Intimate Partner Violence*. The focus of the qualitative study was to understand how intimate partner violence (IPV) impacts women's sexuality in a sample of women who have experienced IPV. Sexuality can include biological sex, sexual acts, sexual feelings, gender roles, and attitudes towards sexual behaviour. It is a dynamic construct that can be influenced by many factors, including experiences of violence and abuse. Experiencing abuse in intimate

relationships is one factor that can affect women in many ways, including their well-being, quality of life, and sexuality. A review of the literature describes the many existing barriers that make it difficult for women to develop a positive sexuality, and discuss what role IPV may have in this development. IPV has been shown to influence women's sexuality both directly, by a partner inflicting physical injuries and conditions that interfere with sexual functioning, and indirectly, through resulting lowered self-esteem, flash-back memories, mental health problems, and various other consequences of IPV. These findings support the need for research that examines both IPV and female sexuality together.

This thesis research project examined IPV survivors' experience of their sexuality by analyzing 31 qualitative interviews from the *Healing Journey Study*. Grounded theory methods were used to analyse the data, and a propositional theory was discovered. This theory states that IPV negatively impacts both sense of self and sexuality. Abusive partners could use sexuality and gender to impair the participants' self-worth and self-

confidence. Participants' identity and sexuality were inextricably linked to one another, where effects on one would impact the other. This reciprocal relationship was true for damage to self and sexuality, as well as the healing of self or sexuality. Therefore, factors that were discussed as impacting healing of sexuality (e.g. gaining sexual assertiveness) could also positively impact healing of self.



Damage to sense of self through abusive relationships could also act to damage sexuality, while regaining sense of self could contribute to the healing of sexuality (see diagram). The description of sexuality amongst the participants was often subtle, and was dependent upon the stage in which the participant was at in her healing. There was substantial variability among descriptions of sexuality, ranging from very negative and impacted

by abuse, to ambivalent, to positive. Often, women with negative descriptions of their sexuality were still in abusive relationships, or more recently out of them compared to participants who had positive or ambivalent descriptions. Safety, agency, and having a new partner were all common factors for women with a positive description of their sexuality.

It was discovered through this research that emotional abuse aimed at body size and shape, appearance, sexuality, and gender were very harmful to sexuality. The women in this sample helped to define a specific type of abuse that was referred to as "emotional-sexual abuse." These findings may inform future research attempting to understand specific types of abuse that have an impact on sexuality. More detailed results of this study will be presented at the RESOLVE Research Day (October 19 - focusing on aspects of healing and the impact of IPV on "self") and at the FREDA National Research Day (November 8-9 - focusing on the impact of emotional-sexual abuse on sexuality). ❀

Alberta Update



by Nicole Letourneau

A lot has happened at RESOLVE Alberta lately! We wished our outgoing RESOLVE Academic Coordinator, Dr. Leslie Tutty and her assistant of many years, Ms. Carole Cillis-Stockwell, best wishes in their long-awaited and well deserved retirements. We also installed our new RESOLVE Academic Coordinator, **Dr. Nicole Letourneau** and her assistant, **Ms. Pradnya Khataavkar**. RESOLVE Alberta has moved to Dr. Letourneau's home faculty of Nursing in the Faculty of Nursing. Nicole and Pradnya extend sincere thanks to Leslie and Carole for their considerable help in making the transition so smooth. The RESOLVE Alberta office is now on the 4th floor of the Education Tower and welcomes visitors!

Dr. Letourneau is also the **Norlien & Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation** Chair in Parent-Infant Mental Health and she is embarking on establishing a new research program developing and testing attachment-based interventions for families affected by violence, addictions, and depression. These stressors often travel together in families. Dr. Letourneau is interested in interventions like this, with potential to reduce the intergenerational transmission of family trauma. Dr. Letourneau recently presented some of this research at the *International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect* conference in Istanbul. She spoke about how some mothers affected by intimate partner violence are able to compensate for their infant's exposure to violence by being more sensitive and responsive in interactions than the norm. It appears that babies are compensating too, by being more clear

in the cues they give their mothers and how responsive they are! Dr. Letourneau will also present this research at the RESOLVE Research Day in Regina. ☘



Nicole Letourneau

November is Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta
Speak up for those who are silenced.



Family Violence Info Line*
 310-1818

People may hear or see something they feel is not quite right with a family, friend, neighbour or co-worker. If you think someone you know is experiencing family violence, reach out by calling the Family Violence Info Line at 310-1818, toll-free 24/7.

**Help is available in more than 170 languages*

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in a reduction in the conviction rate? There are many questions that arise when the established means of “doing justice” change. Will this change be for the better or will it make things worse for the victim? These are the questions we will pursue in our analysis of the Winnipeg Family Violence Court over the next two years. We will report on the outcome.

The second amendment to the CCC deals with the Sentencing Act section 742.1, which states that “If a person is convicted of an offence and the court imposes a sentence of imprisonment of less than two years, the court may order that the offender serve the sentence in the community” (i.e. their home) (Canada Gazette www.gazette.gc.ca). Of particular concern to us is the frequency with which individuals convicted and sentenced to incarceration receive a conditional sentence. This is the case for child sexual abuse offenders (14%) and individuals convicted of child pornography (47%). This amendment has not yet been put in force. We will watch to see if the amendment has an effect on the worrisome pattern of sentencing perpetrators of child sexual abuse or individuals convicted of child pornography to doing their “time” in their home. One of the advantages of a



long-term study of the family violence court is that we can chart before and after patterns to see if changes or amendments in law or policy have the intended effect, that is, to make society safer and protect vulnerable people. We hope that in both of these instances that will be the effect. ☘

My thanks to Professor Debra Parkes, University of Manitoba Faculty of Law, in assisting my navigation through the turgid waters of legislative language.

RESOLVE Research Day 2012: Ways of Healing

Research Day 2012 will be held **October 18–19, 2012** in Regina, Saskatchewan, at the Regina Inn and Conference Centre. This event is presented by RESOLVE Saskatchewan.

Inspired by the Healing Wheel, conference topics include:

- Physical, mental, spiritual, and/or emotional healing
- Abuse prevention programs
- Abuse in communities and families
- Community-based program implementation and evaluation
- Institutional healing (human rights conventions, civil/constitutional law, government policy)
- Other ways of healing

For more information contact Mary Hampton or Ann Bishop at **306-337-2511** or **RESOLVE @uregina.ca**.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are so pleased to announce that **Lydia Worobec**, a hardworking and productive member of the RESOLVE Manitoba team, has received the prestigious *Manitoba Health Research Council Studentship Award* for her study of the rising rate of prenatal alcohol exposure among women of higher socioeconomic status. Congratulations Lydia on this well-deserved recognition of your outstanding work.



Lydia Worobec

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



October 16 & 17, 2012 - Domestic Violence & the Workplace: Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategies Conference, a collaborative venture of Western University, London, ON, the London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse and Fanshawe College. The conference will be held in the Hilton Hotel in London, ON. For more information refer to www.crvawc.ca.

October 18–19, 2012 - RESOLVE Research Day 2012: Ways of Healing presented by RESOLVE Saskatchewan in Regina, Saskatchewan at the Regina Inn Hotel and Conference Centre. Please refer to www.uregina.ca/resolve/RESOLVE/Research%20Day%202012.htm for more information, or contact Mary Hampton or Ann Bishop at 306-337-2577 or RESOLVE@uregina.ca.

November 1–2, 2012 - Revisiting The Intersection Of Batterer Intervention and Substance Abuse presented by the Batterer Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn, Detroit Livonia Conference Center in Livonia, Michigan, USA. Revisiting the Intersection of Batterer Intervention and Substance Abuse will bring practitioners from around the country to present, discuss, inspire and challenge our thinking in ways which will aid in the development of enhanced and additional means to our work in ending domestic violence. For more information refer to biscmi.org/bipsaintersection, telephone Peaty Hershberger at 517-482-3933, or e-mail peatyh@cablespeed.com.

November 7–9, 2012 - National Research Day: Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence: Exploring the Continuum of Violence Against Women and Girls, hosted by the FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children. The event will be held in Vancouver, BC, at the Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown. Conference inquiries can be directed to NRDay@sfu.ca.

February 26– March 1, 2013 - Canadian Domestic Violence Conference 3: New Directions in Practice, Research and Collaboration presented by the Canadian Association of Social Workers. The event will be held in Toronto, ON. This conference will showcase the grassroots initiatives that are happening across the country to address intimate partner violence. The presentations will be made by community-based groups as well as academics and government agencies. Some of these organizations include women's shelters, Partner Abuse Response (PAR) programs, probation offices, victim services offices, counselling centres, private practice. The focus of this Conference is to help foster effective conversations with women and men about domestic violence in these various professional contexts. For more information e-mail bridges@bridgesinstitute.org.

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



Prairieaction
FOUNDATION



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

Phone: **1-877-926-8129** or **(204) 983-1234**

E-mail: **prairieactioninfo@gmail.com**

Web site: **www.prairieaction.ca**

New Executive Director, Web Site, and Contact Information



Our website has been refreshed and reorganized to make it easier for visitors to find what they are looking for. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

We will be announcing the recipients of our *2012 Community Action Research and Education (CARE)* grants shortly and, later this fall, will be placing our call for letters of intent for the 2013 CARE grants.

Welcome to our new Executive Director, **Louise Waldman**, who started with PAF on September 4. Louise has over two decades of experience working in public and media relations, advertising and branding, community engagement and fundraising. She has held senior management positions in the public and not-for-profit sectors, most recently working in public relations for the **CBC** in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and then as the Director of Corporate Communications for the **Canadian Wheat Board**. A Winnipeg native, Louise is an active community volunteer who has worked with diverse groups including the **YW-YMCA**, **Women's Health Clinic**, **North End Women's Resource Centre** and the **Spence Neighbourhood Association**. ☘

RESOLVE Manitoba

*~ Dr. Jane Urşel ~
Director (Academic)*

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