

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

Agreement# 40063171

Introducing Our New Director

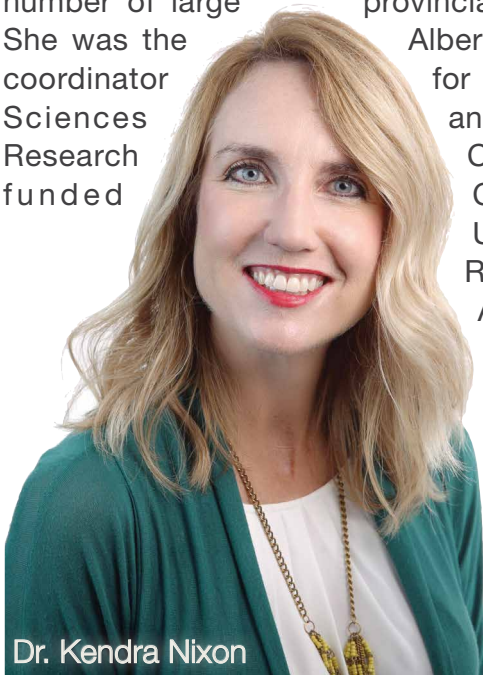


We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Kendra Nixon** as the new Director of RESOLVE. Although she only began in this role on July 1 of this year, Kendra has a longstanding relationship with RESOLVE and has been affiliated with our network since 1999, when she was hired as one of RESOLVE Alberta's first Community Development Research Coordinators in Calgary. Her primary job was to engage community stakeholders and to identify pressing research issues relevant to these stakeholders and the populations they served. Since that time, Kendra has assumed a number of responsibilities and roles within RESOLVE, including the coordination of a number of large provincial projects. She was the Alberta provincial coordinator for two Social Sciences and Humanities Council Community-University Research Alliances projects – the first, an evaluation of the criminal and civil justice systems and IPV; a n d

second, *The Healing Journey* project, a longitudinal study on the experiences of abused women who live in the Prairies. In the latter project, Kendra led the project on the component that examined mothering within the context of IPV.

Kendra moved to Winnipeg in 2008 to join the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba. She remained involved with RESOLVE and was the Faculty of Social Work's representative on the RESOLVE Manitoba Steering Committee and also RESOLVE Manitoba's Academic Representative on RESOLVE's Regional Council. Kendra is currently an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Work and teaches social policy classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Her overarching research agenda focuses on gender-based violence. This research agenda has included research on intimate partner violence, children's exposure to violence, mothering within the context of violence, child maltreatment, and sexual exploitation. She has

New Director... continued on Page 6



Dr. Kendra Nixon

Inside this issue...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2. RESOLVE Alberta Update | 5. Theoretical Reflections, cont. |
| 3. RESOLVE Manitoba Update | 6. New Director, cont. |
| 4. RESOLVE Saskatchewan Update | 7. Announcements, Conferences & Events |
| | 8. PAF Update |

Alberta Update:

No One Deserves To Be Abused: Understanding the Needs of Affluent Survivors



by Laurie Chandler

In 2016, Sagesse (a Calgary non-profit that empowers individuals, organizations and communities to break the cycle of domestic violence) identified a gap in services and supports for affluent women who experience domestic violence (DV). This gap is not unique to Calgary—violence perpetrated against affluent women is often overlooked by service providers and researchers in other jurisdictions as well. Experiences of affluent survivors are rarely studied or acknowledged in the DV literature, and service providers often fail to see the vulnerability of this population because they are not accustomed to associating risk or helplessness with privileged populations. With this in mind, Sagesse embarked on a research project to develop a better-informed profile of affluent survivors and perpetrators. The profile was developed through identification of barriers women of affluence face when supports and services are sought, along with identification of types of additional supports and services needed. Sagesse understands the culture of affluence as a set of explicit and implicit beliefs and values in affluent communities affect the ways in which children are socialized and family and community members interact, as well as how society views affluence.

A literature review examined all research available on the topic—only 12 articles, one PhD dissertation, and a book. Of these, six were specific to upscale violence and the remainder were related to the culture of affluence, help-seeking behaviour in DV, and socioeconomic status in relation to DV. An environmental scan involved a review of information and programs that could be found online, as well as interviews with individuals with practice or research experience with this population. Qualitative research with affluent survivors in Calgary was completed in order to better understand their unique perspectives and service requirements. Participants were recruited via Sagesse's existing networks, with a sample of four women with lived experience as well as two family lawyers to gather their perspectives on the affluent survivors they have worked with.

While DV in affluent communities shares many commonalities with DV in other socioeconomic strata, our research suggests that many differences exist that impact survivors' ability and willingness to access supports and services.

Affluent women who experience DV often identify as



having higher levels of education and professional success, which can lead them to feel that they 'should have known better' or been 'smart enough' to read the signs. Often, this engenders a deep sense of humiliation or shame, and they fear looking naive or foolish for having

chosen an abusive partner. This shame and humiliation often inhibits disclosure to friends, family and reporting to police. Women are fearful of risk to their professional status if they disclose their DV experiences.

For affluent women, leaving an abusive relationship often entails having to choose a new lifestyle and social circle. Survivors may need to give up their wealth, and often lose their position in society. Abusers are often highly educated and/or have high social standing in the community. They are viewed as highly credible 'pillars of the community' because those who know them are often reluctant to associate them with any negative attributes and are less likely to believe reports of violence.

Service providers often assume women of affluence have the resources to manage their problems and escape the abuse. However, in many cases, the abuser has full control of the financial resources.

Any customized services and supports need to account for the perpetrator's level of sophistication and resourcing. Safety planning, for example, may need to take unique circumstances into account (e.g., safety plans for private jets or yachts) and consider the possibilities associated with sophisticated surveillance systems. Legal supports also need to be more sophisticated as affluent abusers have the connections and resources to manipulate the justice system and drag out divorce and custody proceedings.

Support is also required to help women work through issues associated with the potential drop in socioeconomic status that they may experience if they leave the relationships. It is important to provide a realistic picture of the road ahead so that women can be better prepared for what may come.

Results of this research project have significant implications for the DV sector and Sagesse's work in support of affluent survivors. Research demonstrates the need for specialized outreach, training and capacity building (within and beyond the DV sector), awareness raising campaigns, and advocacy. ❀

Manitoba Update: Canadian Child Protection Responses to Cases of Intimate Partner Violence



by Kendra Nixon

Children's exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) is a disturbing reality. In fact, exposure represents the most common type of maltreatment substantiated by Canadian child protection services (CPS). In response, substantial changes have occurred within CPS including expanded definitions of child maltreatment that now include exposure to domestic violence (Manitoba does not include exposure to IPV in its *Child and Family Services Act*). Authorities are routinely involved in cases of IPV, sometimes removing children from the home. However, we know little about the effects of these new policies on children, families, those working in child protection, and other stakeholders.

Currently, I am the principal investigator of a study that examines CPS responses in cases of IPV, entitled *In Search of Promising Approaches: Canadian Child Protection Responses to Cases of Intimate Partner Violence*. The study is being conducted in Manitoba, Ontario, and Alberta and I am working with colleagues, **Drs. Ramona Alaggia and Tara Black** (U of Toronto),

Bruce MacLaurin and **Dr. Angelique Jenney** (U of Calgary), and **Dr. Monty Montgomery** (U of Regina). Ikwe Widdjiitiwin Inc. is the community collaborator for the project. The purpose of this four-year project is to develop a better understanding of new policies and practices that have been implemented by CPS authorities in response to children's exposure. Our objective is to develop practical and useful frameworks for enhanced policy and practice, including recommendations for screening, risk assessment, assessing parenting capacity, intervention with all family members (victims, perpetrators, and children), mandatory training to CPS staff, and interagency protocols with community agencies. The study is currently in its first year and interviews with CPS supervisors are currently underway. In the next **two years, interviews will also be conducted with community stakeholders and families to learn more about the impact of CPS changes. This is a RESOLVE-affiliated project and I will share more study results as the project unfolds.** ☘

Meet Our Steering Committee Member: **Elaine Mordoch**

by Cheryl Fraehlich



Dr. Elaine Mordoch

Dr. **Elaine Mordoch** is an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. Her clinical interests include mental health promotion for children, adolescents and their families, mental health among marginalized youth, trauma informed care, and suicide prevention. Her research interests include mental illness within the family, childhood trauma and the impact of sexual abuse on adult psychiatric presentation, and intergenerational trauma and its relationship to education in mature Aboriginal students. Elaine is passionate about addressing disparity in health care access and, consistent with a holistic vision of health, recognizes that advancing equality in health care leads to better health and social outcomes. Her recent research includes a pilot project to

promote mental health among youth in Cross Lake First Nation and a project exploring how trauma, including experiences in residential schools, can have an intergenerational impact and influence survivors' experiences in educational settings. Throughout her lengthy career Elaine has been involved in numerous initiatives within the university and the community at large. She received the 2017 Dr. and Mrs. D.R. Campbell Outreach Award, which recognizes outstanding community service by academics who apply their professional and scholarly experience to communities around them. In addition to her teaching, research and participation in numerous networks and working groups within the community, Elaine has found time to serve as a member of the RESOLVE Manitoba Steering Committee since 2000. ☘

Saskatchewan Update: *Theoretical Reflections*



by Darlene Juschka



Writing about oneself is never easy, especially when one is a Canadian. One never knows quite what to say, how much to tell, or what kind of narrative to use to construct one's story. But such is the nature of biographical moments, so I'll forage ahead through the dense underbrush of uncertainty. I was born far from the Saskatchewan prairie and didn't arrive until the summer of 2000, having been hired as an assistant professor and program coordinator for the Women's Studies Program at the University of Regina. (This program quietly began in 1994.) Several years after taking the position I joined RESOLVE Saskatchewan and participated in the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council—Community—University Research Alliances (SSHRC—CURA) funded project *The Healing Journey*, then subsequently the next SSHRC—CURA funded project *Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence*. In July 2017 I completed fifteen years as Head of what is now Women's and Gender Studies but continue to work in the department, along with working in Religious Studies, my first academic discipline. Currently, I have been working on three writing projects: completing the Saskatchewan Report for the recent SSHRC—CURA funded project, completing a special journal issue on feminism and the study of religion, and completing the last chapter of my manuscript *Contours of the flesh*:

The semiotics of pain. To all of these projects I bring a feminist post-structuralist lens, a lens that incorporates intersectionality—a theoretical framework developed in Black feminisms that examines how race and class, among other social categories, intersect and shape both the social body at large and the lives of those who operate within it.

My academic background is the study of religion with a focus on ritual, symbol and myth, and related to these the study of the construction of worlds, networks of power, knowledge systems, identity, sexuality, gender, and race. In my approach to systems of belief and practice and their subsystems of ritual, symbol, and myth, I draw on feminist post-structuralism, which rejects Euro-Western modernism/Enlightenment's claims to truth, certainty, and justice. As post-structuralists argue, these claims situate those who produce them as truth bearers whose truth is guaranteed and from which a "natural" justice is seen to emerge. These markers of modernism's conceptualization of civilization, however, are not things in the world. Rather, they are discourses that act as regimes of power that define and limit the lives of those who do not signify as properly human—that is, resemble those who have defined these markers. Those in power are positioned to shape the worlds of those who are not in power and produce such ideas as the female/feminine as the site of error and blame. For example, in a recent conversation I had concerning the rape of a 14 year-old Indigenous girl, the small community blamed the young girl as she has a comely figure, the mother of the girl for being a bad mother, and the woman from whose house she sneaked out of that evening for being too lax. What was missing in the conversation of blame was the rapist himself, a young man from the same community. Victim blaming, as it is called, continues to be the practice in sexual assault and domestic violence cases, particularly if the

Reflections... continued on Page 5

Reflections... continued from Page 4

victimized person is marked as female/feminine or Indigenous.

When I came to RESOLVE Saskatchewan I brought tools by which to think about the problem of violence and interpersonal and family violence, and work to develop strategies that might challenge them. Drawing on feminist post-structuralism and intersectionality, central to my engagement with our SSHRC-CURA studies, was an analysis of power and how that power was deployed between people and within families and communities. Using these theoretical formations it became apparent that I needed to approach the issue of interpersonal and family violence as contextually bound. That is, contexts provide the conditions by which violence is understood, enacted, accepted and/or resisted. Paying attention to the interplay of power within it was also clear that violence is a dense transfer point of power for all kinds of things, for example, the control of demographic groups. For example, Indigenous peoples, who participated in both studies on interpersonal and family violence, are over-represented in Canadian prisons, which requires researchers to ask how we might unwittingly contribute to this problem in the work we do. From the complexity of the context in our SSHRC-CURA projects, that is colonialism, and the power of violence deployed against and within northern and Indigenous communities, I felt a harm-reduction approach was necessary.

Applied to sex work, drug use, HIV/AIDs, sexual health and youth crime, a harm reduction approach is equally amenable to events of violence. Since the 1960s the path governments have too often taken with regard to interpersonal violence has been abstinence, which results in possible criminalization and imprisonment of perpetrators, those who physically defend themselves, and sometimes victims who refuse to follow through with charges. Too often with the notion of abstinence comes large doses of morality and judgment directed at not only the perpetrator of violence but also at those

subjected to the violence. Conceptually then, all involved in the violent event are touched by the illegitimate use of violence and therefore share in the event. Questions such as “*Well, why didn't she just leave?*” or “*Why did she keep returning?*” plague those who struggle with interpersonal violence and raise the spectre of blame and shame. Questions like these reflect a narrow understanding of interpersonal and family violence and a refusal to acknowledge their complexity. Noting these problems, and listening to our participants who spoke of those victimized needing the violence to stop but not by criminalization suggested to me that a restorative justice model was needed to deal with interpersonal and family violence. Harm reduction eschews a narrow and moral analysis, and instead asks “*What needs to be in place so that people involved can address the violent situation and mitigate harm?*” In the harm reduction framework, those who have been victimized are those who define the process, which aims to heal rather than punish. Furthermore, knowing that many who enact violence had themselves been victimized by violence, often at an early age and repeatedly, again suggests the need to think in terms of restorative justice when dealing with interpersonal and family violence.

These are the views and tools I bring with me as a member of the RESOLVE network. Although feminist post-structuralism and harm reduction are not necessarily appreciated by all theorists, to my mind they allow me to ask different questions with regard to the problem of interpersonal and family violence. ❄

RESOLVE Research Day 2018

Mark your calendars for **October 18 and 19, 2018**, for **RESOLVE Research Day 2018** in **Regina, Saskatchewan**.

For more information refer to www2.uregina.ca/resolve/ResearchDay2018.html.

New Director... continued from Page 1

conducted research within a variety of institutional settings, including child welfare, the police, the civil and criminal courts, and correctional facilities. Currently, her work examines how institutions, such as child protective services, construct mothers abused by their male partners and the resultant policies and practices. Quite often abused mothers are re-victimized by these systems, thus the overall objective of her work is to develop better institutional responses so that abused mothers and their children are not further victimized by the very systems that are supposed to protect them. Funded by a SSHRC Insight Grant, Kendra is currently leading a team of researchers to examine promising approaches to address intimate partner violence within Canadian child protection services (see Page 3 for more information about this study).

In addition to her examination of child protection responses to IPV, Kendra has focused her research on mothering within the context of IPV, including the various strategies mothers employ to protect their children from both the direct and indirect harms of exposure to violence. For example, Kendra and her social work colleague, **Colin Bonnycastle**, conducted a qualitative study on the protective strategies that abused mothers in Winnipeg and Thompson use on a day-to-day basis to protect their children. Their research highlighted that abused mothers actively engage in acts and behaviours to protect their children from the harms of exposure to violence, and these strategies may differ for mothers living in remote, isolated communities. In addition to her local



projects, she is also a co-investigator on the SSHRC-funded national study, Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (**Drs. Myrna Dawson** and **Peter Jaffe** are Co-Directors). Kendra was also a co-investigator on the **Voices Against Violence Project**, a national Canadian Institutes of Health Research funded study that examined structural violence in the lives of children and youth (**Dr. Helene Berman** was PI).

Kendra has also been actively involved in organizations devoted to ending domestic violence and child maltreatment. She was a long-time board member on the Canadian Child Abuse Association (formerly known as the Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse), a national Network of Excellence supporting and protecting abused children, their families, and the professionals and communities involved in the investigation of child abuse. Kendra has also been actively involved in the Winnipeg community since she arrived ten years ago. She served as a longtime board member for the North End Women's Community (NEWC), where she held many executive positions, including Board Chair.

Kendra has two teenage sons and has recently become involved in various community initiatives to raise money and awareness for critically ill children in Manitoba, including pediatric cancer. Her older son, Nathaniel, was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia in January 2017. Kendra's personal experience of caring for a critically ill child has made her even more aware of the importance of community supports for families who experience trauma and loss—including those who are also dealing with violence and abuse. Kendra is looking forward to her term as RESOLVE Director and working closely again with the academic and community partners in all three provinces. Welcome Kendra! ☘

Announcements, Conferences and Events



September 23, 2018 - Torch of Dignity Relay in Winnipeg, MB. Presented by Manitobans for Human Rights, Inc. The Torch of Dignity relay represents all peoples uniting to show our commitment to promote human rights, diversity, acceptance, inclusion, equality and fairness for all, whilst showing our pride and love for our great Province. For more information refer to www.mhri.ca/2018/07/03/torch-of-dignity-2018/.

RESOLVE RESEARCH DAY 2018

October 18 and 19, 2018

Travelodge Hotel and Conference Centre
4177 Albert Street South
REGINA, SK

Contact person:
Ann Bishop
RESOLVE Saskatchewan
306-337-2511 or
RESOLVE@uregina.ca

RESOLVE Saskatchewan and the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) present

CIRCLES OF CARE: THE IMPACT OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES



COREY O'SOUP

Mr. O'Soup is Saskatchewan's Advocate for Children and Youth. He will speak about how intimate partner violence and the lack of mental health services in the province affect children and youth. He will also speak about how his work as Advocate is helping children and youth across the province.



KIM ZORN, PH.D.

Dr. Zorn's research has made her an expert on stalking and its effect on the women it victimizes. She has advised police and justice services in the prairie provinces by conducting presentations on stalking and its impact on victims. Dr. Zorn has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and practices in Calgary.

Funded by the Prairieaction Foundation, RESOLVE is a tri-provincial research network seeking solutions to violence and abuse.

Sponsors:



SHRF
SASKATCHEWAN
HEALTH RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



Practitioner



UNIVERSITY OF
REGINA



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

Call for papers and registration information can be found on the RESOLVE Saskatchewan website at <http://www.uregina.ca/resolve/>

October 18 and 19, 2018 - RESOLVE Research Day: Circles of Care: The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Children, Families and Communities in Regina, SK. Hosted by RESOLVE Saskatchewan and PATHS (Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan). Keynote speakers are **Corey O'Soup**, children's advocate for the Province of Saskatchewan, and **Dr. Kim Zorn**, who will speak about her research on stalking. For more information refer to www2.uregina.ca/resolve/ResearchDay2018.html or contact Ann Bishop at 306-337-2511 or RESOLVE@uregina.ca.

October 24 - 26, 2018 - 6th International Conference on Violence in the Health Sector: Advancing the Delivery of Positive Practice in Toronto, ON. Organized by Oud Consultancy. Work related aggression and violence within the health and social services sector is a major problem that diminishes the quality of work life for staff, compromises organizational effectiveness and ultimately impacts negatively on the provision and quality of care. These problems pervade service settings and occupational groups. For

more information refer to oudconsultancy.nl/toronto_6_ICWV/index.html.

October 25, 7 - 10:30 a.m., 2018 - The Exchange: Conversations to Inspire Change with Denise Donlon at the Hyatt Regency Calgary - Imperial Ballroom, in Calgary, AB. Presented by the Canadian Women's Foundation. This event is the must-attend breakfast of the year for those who want to better understand the actions we can take to move gender equality forward. *The Exchange* features Denise Donlon in Calgary, an incredible woman who will inspire you with messages of tenacity and triumph in the journey to equality. For more information refer to www.canadianwomen.org/theexchange/.

November - Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta and **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** in Manitoba.

November 14 - 15, 2018 - 18th Annual Diverse Voices Family Violence Conference in Edmonton, AB. For conference information contact Michelle LaRue - Conference Coordinator - by email at diversevoicesfvc@gmail.com, telephone: 780-485-7863, fax: 780-485-5986 or refer to www.diverse-voices.com.



Prairieaction
FOUNDATION

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

Telephone: 1-877-926-8129

E-mail: info@prairieaction.ca

Web site: www.prairieaction.ca

New Look and Feel for the Prairieaction Foundation Website!

We've updated our website to make it easier to learn more about the Prairieaction Foundation (PAF) activities, grants and award programs. Our site is much more interactive and is now mobile friendly so that visitors to the site can navigate with ease. Visit our site at prairieaction.ca to check out our fresh new look!

Prairieaction Foundation Youth Leadership Awards

PAF is now accepting nominations for the *Youth Leadership Award*. Presented annually, Youth Leadership Awards recognize and reward groups of young people who have demonstrated leadership and commitment in finding solutions to violence and abuse. Each group selected to receive the Award is given the opportunity to apply for a grant to continue, expand or duplicate their award-winning project, or initiate a new activity. Information about eligibility and the nomination process is available on the PAF website. The deadline for nominations is November 30.

"Bullying Ends Here"

Prairieaction Foundation is very proud to partner with **Tad Milmine** to provide thirty *Bullying Ends Here* presentations to students across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in the coming school year. Since 2011, Tad has spoken out against bullying at schools and youth organizations across the country and around the world. For more information visit the *Bullying Ends Here* website at www.bullyingendshere.ca. ☘

RESOLVE Manitoba

~ Dr. Kendra Nixon ~
Director (RESOLVE)

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO: 40063171
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:

108 Isbister Building
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2

Ph: (204) 474-8965 Fax: (204) 474-7686

E-mail: resolve@umanitoba.ca

Website: www.umanitoba.ca/resolve

RESOLVE Saskatchewan

~ Dr. Darlene Juschka ~
Acting Director

LC 210, Luther College
University of Regina
Regina, SK S4S 0A2

Ph: (306) 337-2511 Fax: (306) 585-5267

E-mail: resolve@uregina.ca

Website: www.uregina.ca/resolve

RESOLVE Alberta

~ Dr. Nicole Letourneau ~
Director (RESOLVE Alberta)

PF 2282

University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4

Ph: (403) 220-8181 Fax: (403) 210-8117

E-mail: resolve@ucalgary.ca

Website: www.ucalgary.ca/resolve