RESOLVE

Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse

Newsletter Fall 2021

RESOLVE Network Update

The RESOLVE Network invites you to join in an exciting talk by keynote speaker Candice Klein, PhD candidate at the University of Saskatchewan. Candice's presentation, *Dusting Off Our Past for a Safer Tomorrow, Historical Context of Gendered Violence in the Prairies,* explores how and why domestic sexual violence was so prolific across Saskatchewan between the years of 1890 to 1940, using data from District Court case files, legal testimonies of survivors, newspapers, and government records, as well as theories of intergenerational violence, trauma, and institutional power. Candice's presentation will be followed by a focused panel discussion about the deep-rooted, structural, and historical violence across Saskatchewan.This conversation will be guided by targeted questions for the panelists with the goal of moving one step closer towards action for change.

A series of brief, pre-recorded talks from each of the Prairie Provinces will be made available on the RESOLVE Saskatchewan website two weeks prior to the event. The idea behind these videos is to meaningfully engage attendees in the conversation, as well as showcase the wonderful work of researchers and community partners across the Prairies. The RESOLVE Research Talk 2021 will be held on Friday, November 19th, 2021, from 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm Central Time, via Zoom. Register on Eventbrite.

RESOLVE Tri-Provincial Research Projects

Our offices are busy working on numerous research projects and initiatives. We continue to work on three tri-provincial research projects including:

Responding to Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Rural Municipalities Across the Prairies

We continue to recruit participants, both survivors and service providers, for this research project. We aim to produce a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map that will help us understand the availability of services in rural areas. We started to explore the possibilities of GIS with the training provided by the University of Manitoba library staff. We also have launched an environmental scan that reports on the agencies, programs, and services available to women from rural municipalities in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta who have experienced IPV. The scan includes a listing of organizations and a brief description of the services they provide for each province. The literature review is almost complete and will be launched in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

Examining the Nature & Context of Intimate Partner Violence in 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

Similarly, work on the tri-prairie examination of IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ communities has advanced in recent months. Drafts of the environmental scan and literature review have been completed and circulated to members of the research team for review. We've been recruiting survivors across the Prairies for participation in a survey regarding their experiences of intimate partner violence and will be conducting follow-up interviews. Interviews with service providers who support 2SLGBTQ+

survivors of IPV are also underway.

ATTACH Program: Promoting Vulnerable Children's Health at Scale

The ATTACH team has begun to train ATTACH™ facilitators in Alberta and Manitoba and plans to train Saskatchewan facilitators as soon as possible. To date, more than a dozen facilitators have completed in-person training and 60 have begun the online training that precedes the in-person training. We anticipate starting to deliver the ATTACH™ program at agencies in Alberta and Manitoba before then end of 2021.

To learn more about the RESOLVE Network's three tri-provincial projects visit the RESOLVE website.

Prairieaction FOUNDATION Thank you to the Prairie*action* Foundation for funding the RESOLVE Network and allowing the Network to continue to conduct research aimed at ending family and gender-based violence.

RESOLVE Network Contact
Dr. Kendra Nixon, Director
108 Isbister Building I University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba I R3T 2N2 I Canada

Email: Kendra.Nixon@umanitoba.ca
Phone: 204-474-9292

RESOLVE Alberta Update

The Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) Update

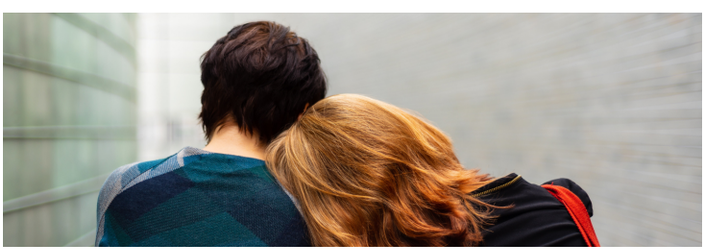
By Carrie Pohl, MSW, RSW I University of Calgary I RESOLVE Alberta

In April 2017, the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre (RDRHC) Emergency Department (ED), and what is now known as Central Alberta Outreach Society, collaborated on an initiative to provide crisis intervention to patients who are experiencing domestic violence presenting at the RDRHC ED. The initiative led to the development of a pilot program they called the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART), which sought to improve screening, referrals & staff confidence when working with individuals who had experienced domestic violence presenting at the ED. Read more.

The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Domestic Violence and Child Abuse: A Summary

By Carrie Pohl, MSW, RSW I University of Calgary I RESOLVE Alberta

There is a lot to say about the impact of the 2019 coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that continues to this day. While various researchers seek to learn about the virus' effects on health, Canadian scholars, Sandra Bucerius, Brad Roberts, and Daniel Jones (2021), sought to understand the societal effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the increase in domestic violence and child abuse rates. Read more.



Growth Circle: A Domestic Violence Peer Support Program that Decreases Cortisol Levels: A Summary of Research Findings

By Carrie Pohl, MSW, RSW | University of Calgary | RESOLVE Alberta

Social Sciences literature to date has provided significant evidence on the positive effects of peer support groups for women who have experienced domestic violence (McManus et al., 2020). Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society is a community-based organization in Calgary, Alberta, that provides these types of groups. One of the groups that they offer is called Growth Circle, which this writer understands is in high demand, and for valid reasons. Read more.

RESOLVE Alberta Contact
Dr. Nicole Letourneau, Provincial Director
PF 2282 I University of Calgary I 2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta I T2N 1N4 I Canada

Email: RESOLVE@ucalgary.ca
Phone: 403-441-4552

RESOLVE Manitoba Update

Tech-Facilitated Violence: An Introduction Webinar

RESOLVE Manitoba presents the *Tech-Facilitated Violence: An Introduction* webinar on Wednesday, November 24th, 2021, from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Central Time via Zoom. Register on Eventbrite.

The *Tech-Facilitated Violence: An Introduction* webinar will provide information on what "technology-facilitated violence (TFV)" is and help explain some of the terminology used to describe this kind of violence. Professors Jane Bailey of the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law, and Suzie Dunn of Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law will discuss the various types of TFV, why it is a growing societal problem, and provide helpful resources and safety tips. They will also talk about social media companies' role in TFV and how ending TFV involves a wide variety of responses from individuals, social media companies, and governments.

RESOLVE Manitoba Welcomes New Research Associate, Masha Kardashevskaya

Masha Kardashevskaya holds a Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict studies from the University of Manitoba. She has worked as an ally of the peace, human rights, and Indigenous Peoples' rights movement in the context of the Global South for 10 years before starting her doctoral studies. Her doctoral research project explored the gendered dynamics of the Indigenous non-violent resistance in its connection to land. Apart from her interest in gendered non-violence, she is also passionate about decolonization, violence intervention and prevention, and grassroots peacebuilding work. She volunteers with two human rights organizations, Peace Brigades International (PBI) and Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML).

The RESOLVE team is looking forward to working with Masha on current and future research projects and hopes to benefit from Masha's extensive knowledge and worldly experience.

RESOLVE Manitoba Welcomes BSW Field Placement Student, Élyse LeBlanc

Élyse (she/her/hers) is an undergraduate Social Work student at the University of Manitoba completing a field placement under the supervision of Dr. Kendra Nixon. Élyse started out studying Computer Science at the University of Winnipeg, but later shifted towards Sociology and Psychology. Élyse has always been passionate about social issues and interested in examining the power relations that produce them. Social Work appealed to her for its potential to marry theory with practical application, helping to bridge the gap between academic activism and the "real world". According to Élyse doing a research placement at RESOLVE Manitoba, with its action-oriented mandate, seemed like the perfect fit!

Thank You to Logan Stalker, UM Undergraduate Research Award Recipient

Each year the Office of the Vice-President, Research and International, in partnership with the University of Manitoba Student Union, offers an Undergraduate Research Award that annually provides an individual student with the opportunity to be mentored full-time with a professor for the summer months and to gain valuable research experience in their field of interest. This year, Logan Stalker was awarded the Undergraduate Research award. Logan had worked the entire summer with Dr. Kendra Nixon and was directly involved in many RESOLVE projects including the *Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative for Vulnerable Populations, Examining the Nature & Context of Intimate Partner Violence in the 2SLGBTQ+ Communities* and *Caught in the Middle: Children's Involvement in the Court Process as it Relates to Intimate Partner Violence*. Following Logan's term as an Undergraduate Research Award recipient, Logan was hired as a part-time Research Assistant and continues to be involved in RESOLVE projects. RESOLVE Manitoba is grateful to continue to have the opportunity to mentor Logan.

Congratulations to Renée Hoffart, Research Associate, RESOLVE Manitoba

Congratulations to Renée Hoffart, Research Associate at RESOLVE Manitoba for successfully defending her dissertation this month! Renée's research examines how responses to intimate partner violence have changed over time with a specific focus on how the advent of neo-liberalism and the advent of risk discourse have impacted service provision within the anti-violence sector.

RESOLVE Manitoba commends Renée for her amazing accomplishment and overall contribution to the RESOLVE Network!

Spotlight on RESOLVE Research Assistant

Riley Hammond is a senior student in the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing program at Brandon University. He has a background in the field of Psychology. His praxis is focused on health promotion and harm reduction efforts for individuals who are marginalized, social-health program development and evaluation, and the development of healthy public policy. His research interests triangulate around substance use and harm reduction, mental health and resilience, and partner violence and pathways to recovery. Riley currently works as a program facilitator at the John Howard Society's Men's Resource Centre in Brandon supporting the reintegration efforts of men and their families following incarceration, serves on the Brandon University Health Studies Student Association (BUHSSA), and is thrilled to be assisting research activities for the dynamic team at RESOLVE!

RESOLVE Manitoba Welcomes Noreen Mian to the Steering Committee

Noreen Mian (she/her) is the Executive Director of the Rainbow Resource Centre. Noreen holds a MA in cultural studies (Athabasca) and a BA in Art History (McGill) and before beginning her career, spent six months living in West Africa volunteering in community development.

RESOLVE Manitoba Project Updates

We continue to work on several research projects, including provincial, tri-provincial, and national ones. See below for an update on some of our projects.

COVID-19 and the Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence Survivors and Service Providers Project Update

Significant progress has been made on the COVID-19 and intimate partner violence (IPV) study over the past few months. The literature review is complete and we are in the process of editing the final draft, which will be available in the near future. We've conducted interviews with 12 survivors regarding their experiences of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also been recruiting participants for the service provider survey and will be conducting follow-up focus groups in the coming months.

Community of Practice (CoP) Project Update

The Winnipeg & Surrounding Area Community of Practice (CoP) is a comprised of 23 members, including legal professionals, practitioners, academics, and participants with lived experience. In the last year, the CoP group has met three times on a regional level and twice on a national level. On March 6, 2021, RESOLVE Manitoba hosted a webinar entitled *COVID-19, the Shadow Pandemic, and Access to Justice for Survivors of Domestic Violence* and released a brief related to the webinar shortly thereafter. The next webinar - *Tech-Facilitated Violence: An Introduction* - will be held November 24 from 12-1:30pm CDT. Register for this event on Eventbrite. Webinar recordings and research briefs can be accessed here.

Carolynne Boivin Scholarship for Research in Family or Gender-Based Violence Impact Report

The Carolynne Boivin Scholarship for Research in Family or Gender-Based Violence Impact Report is now available for download. The Impact Report highlights past scholarship recipients whose research has focused on addressing family or gender-based violence and illustrates the true impact the scholarship has had on each recipient personally as well as academically.

Since the establishment of the scholarship in 2002, RESOLVE Manitoba has granted scholarships to 32 recipients, each scholarship ranging in value from $500 to $4,580. RESOLVE Manitoba is grateful for Carolynne and Dan Boivin's contribution, as it will ensure that future generations of family and gender-based violence researchers at the University of Manitoba are supported. Download the report here and visit the RESOLVE website to learn about the scholarship. Stay tuned for information for the next competition in the new year!

RESOLVE Manitoba Call Out for Research Participants

RESOLVE Manitoba is seeking service providers for a study who have worked with women from rural areas who have been victims of intimate partner violence to participate in a focus group with other service providers. The focus groups will take 1.5 – 2 hours to complete and will be by teleconference or videoconference at a convenient time. If interested in participating or you would like more information, please contact Masha Kardashevskaya at 204-890-1019, 1-833-440-1960 or email masha.kardashevskaya@umanitoba.ca.

RESOLVE Manitoba Call Out for Research Participants

RESOLVE Manitoba is looking for volunteers to take part in a study about experiences of intimate partner violence in 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Participants must be adults (18 years or older), experienced some form of intimate partner violence between 2010-2020, resides in and/or experienced intimate partner violence in Manitoba, Canada, identify with a 2SLGBTQ+ community and is currently in a safe situation free from violence. To participate in an interview or for more information, please contact us at 1-866-815-9228 or email renee.hoffart@umanitoba.ca.

RESOLVE Manitoba Contact
Dr. Kendra Nixon, Director
108 Isbister Building I University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba I R3T 2N2 I Canada

Email: Kendra.Nixon@umanitoba.ca
Phone: 204-474-9292

RESOLVE Saskatchewan Update

The RESOLVE SK activities, including social media promotion, Steering Committee meetings and the RESOLVE Talk 2021 scheduled for November, continue thanks to the wonderful efforts of RESOLVE SK Research Assistant Morgana Machea, a graduate student in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. We are also fortunate to have Shaylyn White, M.A. as the Research Assistant involved in the tri-provincial research project, *Examining the Nature & Context of IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ Communities*, and Sociology graduate student Kayla Arisman as

Research Assistant for the tri-provincial research project *Responding to Women Who Experience IPV in Rural Municipalities Across the Prairies*. Kayla's focus with the research project is companion animals as a barrier to leaving intimate partner violence.

The RESOLVE Research Talk 2021 and panel discussion, *Dusting Off Our Past for A Safer Tomorrow, Historical Context of Gendered Violence in the Prairies* scheduled for November 19, 2021, is a COVID-19 friendly event in place of the annual RESOLVE Research Day. We invite participants to virtually join us in an exciting talk by keynote speaker Candice Klein, who explores how and why domestic sexual violence was so prolific across Saskatchewan, rendering visible the historical context that brought Saskatchewan to produce the highest rates of violence in Canada. Pre-recorded talks from each of the three provinces (Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba) will showcase some of the RESOLVE Network's research projects and interventions. Candice's presentation will be followed by a brief, focused panel conversation with Candice and the presenters of the pre-recorded talks about how we might take action to address the deep-rooted, structural violence in Prairie families. There is no charge to attend. We hope you can join us!

We continue to engage with researchers, practitioners, policy makers and the broader community to consider new activities and joint research projects and to further our commitment to Indigenous engagement. Most recently, RESOLVE SK partnered with Dr. Marie Lovrod (Women's and Gender Studies, University of Saskatchewan), Jo-Anne Dusel (The Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services (PATHS)) and Dr. Carolyn Brooks (Sociology, University of Saskatchewan) on a knowledge mobilization project to create three short training videos on interpersonal violence in collaboration with Indigenous men from rural, remote, and/or northern communities. A summary of this project is included in this edition of the newsletter.

The Importance of Animals When Seeking Help for Intimate Partner Violence

By Kayla Arisman | RESOLVE Saskatchewan

As a Research Assistant for RESOLVE SK and a graduate student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan, my thesis focuses on the importance of animals for women seeking help from rural intimate partner violence (IPV). This secondary analysis of a larger study will add to the limited existing research focused on the importance of animals within a rural IPV context. Literature has shown women leaving IPV take the safety of their animals into consideration. Many shelters are unable to accommodate even small cats and dogs, leaving those with larger dogs or livestock animals, such as horses and cattle, facing a unique set of challenges. Previous research has highlighted safety issues concerning the treatment animals may receive while in the care of the abusive partner, as animal abuse often co-occurs with IPV. As well, the threat of bringing harm to animals is sometimes used as a tool of coercion and control. This current research project hopes to further understand the role of animals for women seeking help within the context of rural IPV.

Understanding the Impact of Child Trauma on Non-Offending Caregivers

This project led by Whitney Willcott-Benoit and Dr. Jorden Cummings aims to understand the process of healing for parents after their child experiences trauma. This study will advance the grounded theory *Protecting and Healing* (Cummings, 2018), by replicating Cummings's original study using archival and newly generated qualitative data. This replication is necessary to understand how parent recovery may involve placing the child's trauma as a central event that informs the parent's own identity and life-story. This phenomenon was found upon reviewing archival data but has not been previously qualitatively examined by researchers. This study will provide important information to researchers and practitioners in the area of indirect trauma exposure. Advancing this theory can provide practitioners with a framework from which to understand the process of parental recovery (or lack thereof) following child trauma. This theory can also begin to help researchers understand the recovery process from indirect trauma exposure across other populations (e.g., spouses). This project is currently ongoing – If you or someone you know would like to participate in this study, please contact trauma.research@usask.ca.

RESOLVE Saskatchewan Knowledge Mobilization Project

Three Short Films About Gendered Violence and Healing: Indigenous Men Share Stories

This project emerges from a collaborative knowledge mobilization request from a First Nation for video resources to be used in men's violence prevention groups. Dr. Marie Lovrod (Women's and Gender Studies, University of Saskatchewan), Dr. Karen Wood (RESOLVE Saskatchewan), Jo-Anne Dusel (The Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services (PATHS)) and Dr. Carolyn Brooks (Sociology, University of Saskatchewan) received funding from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) Research Connections Grant to create three short training videos on interpersonal violence in collaboration with Indigenous men from rural, remote, and/or northern communities, who may or may not have been affected by interpersonal violence, themselves.

These videos will serve the group's larger goal of educating themselves and others about types and scales of interpersonal and gendered violence and empowering community members to recognize and respond to the behaviours and conditions that enable violence. Participants will guide development and retain ownership of the videos, with the potential to upscale to a larger program, develop more videos and continue to engage in activities to raise awareness of gendered violence in other communities. Final content will be strengths-based, advancing insights that emerge from among the participants on elements of gender roles, coercive control, and intergenerational trauma, in a process designed to facilitate revised ways of understanding and behaving, consistent with Indigenous cultural values. The videos will offer a vital resource for First Nations and Métis communities, particularly relevant given the challenges of internet access in many communities. Our hope is that the videos can become sources of knowledge for all community stakeholders

RESOLVE Saskatchewan Contact
Dr. Karen Wood, Provincial Director (Interim)
1117 - 9 Campus Drive I University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, SK I S7N 5A5 I Canada

Email: Karen.Wood@usask.ca
Phone: 306-966-5369

New Publications

#MeToo on the Canadian Prairies: Raising Awareness of Sexual Assaults and Mental Health in Women Abused by Intimate Partners
(Leslie Tutty & Kendra Nixon, Violence Against Women, September 2021)

Studies of intimate partner sexual assault and its effects on mental health are limited. This secondary data analysis examines intimate partner sexual assault, a history of child sexual abuse, depression, trauma, mental distress, and quality of life in 665 Canadian women, 41% of whom had been sexually assaulted by intimate partners; 53% were sexually abused as children. Access the published article here.

A Longitudinal Study of the Well-Being of Canadian Women Abused by Intimate Partners: A Healing Journey
(Leslie Tutty, Lorraine Radtke, Wilfreda Thurston, Jane Ursel, Kendra Nixon, Mary Hampton, & Christine Ateah, Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma, 2021, Vol 30, Issue 9)

This 2.5-year longitudinal, Canadian tri-provincial study (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba) of women abused by intimate partners examines the nature of partner abuse, physical and mental conditions, disabilities, child abuse history, and quality of life. Access the published article here.

Intimate Partner Violence, Animal Maltreatment, and Concern for Animal Safekeeping: A Survey of Survivors Who Owned Pets and Livestock
(Violence Against Women, October 2021)

This article written by Crystal Giesbrecht reports the findings of an online survey that was completed by victims/survivors of intimate partner violence, living in both urban and rural areas, who owned pets and/or livestock. Access the accepted manuscript here or access the published article here.

Upcoming Events

Raise Awareness for the Elimination of Violence Against Women Walk
November 25, 2021 I 12:00pm (CDT) I Location: Legislature, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Implementing Children's Rights in All Family Court Cases
November 25, 2021 I 10:30am-12:00pm (PST) I Zoom I Register Here

CIHR SPOR ATTACH™ Study Webinar Series
November 26, 2021 I 12pm - 1pm (MST) I Zoom I Register Here

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Our mailing address is:
108 Isbister Building, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2

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