RESOLVE

Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse

Newsletter Fall 2022

RESOLVE Network Update

Welcome Dr. Mario Pinto, University of Manitoba's Vice-President (Research & International)

The RESOLVE Network would like to welcome Dr. Mario Pinto as the new Chair of our Network and Partnership Board.

Dr. Pinto received his undergraduate degree and doctorate from Queen's University in Ontario. His past appointments include, Chair of Chemistry and Vice-President of Research at Simon Fraser University, and President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. As President, Dr. Pinto championed investment in the equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) agenda, and youth STEM education as an architect of the National Science Odyssey program.

Dr. Pinto has also served as Director of the Gold Coast Health & Knowledge Precinct, in Queensland, Australia, and as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research at Griffith University, Australia. Dr. Pinto assumed his position at the University of Manitoba on October 1, 2022.

Thank You, Dr. Digvir Jayas

The RESOLVE Network would like to recognize and thank Dr. Digvir Jayas for his leadership role as Vice-President (Research and International) and as Chair of the RESOLVE Partnership Board.

Dr. Jayas began his solid partnership with RESOLVE in 2009 and has contributed immensely to the success the RESOLVE Network has experienced throughout the past decade. Through his visionary approach to research, Dr. Jayas has fostered an environment that encourages collaboration, diversity, and innovation – the very principles that are critical to the work of our Network. From the entire RESOLVE team, we would like to thank Dr. Jayas for his unwavering commitment and support over the years. We wish him the very best in his new role.

Welcome Dr. Jorden Cummings, RESOLVE SK Director

Please join the RESOLVE Network in welcoming Dr. Jorden Cummings, the new Director of RESOLVE Saskatchewan!

Dr. Jorden Cummings (they/she) is a Professor in the Department of Psychology & Health Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Since 2010 Dr. Cummings has lived and worked on Treaty 6 territory and the Homeland of the Métis and is grateful to the prairies for opening her eyes to the importance of place and the role, we all play as treaty peoples. Dr. Cummings is also a registered doctoral-level clinical psychologist and the Founder of Teach Me Self Care, an online platform dedicated to disseminating evidence-based and workable self-care resources for knowledge workers and helping professionals.

To learn more about Dr. Cummings, visit RESOLVE Saskatchewan.

Barriers & Solutions to Accessing Supports for 2SLGBTQ+ Survivors of IPV Across the Prairies

Written by Bright Thorsteinson, BSW Field Placement Student, RESOLVE Manitoba

Research and literature regarding intimate partner violence (IPV) in the context of 2SLGBTQ+ communities have been historically limited. This lack of information is historically situated in sexual and gendered criminalization, which causes distrust between 2SLGBTQ+ communities and formal supports such as police services and shelters (Haller et al., 2022). The lack of research and literature regarding 2SLGBTQ+ communities is concerning as these communities experience the same types, as well as unique types, of violence in comparison to their heterosexual.... read more.

RESOLVE Tri-Provincial Project Updates

Examining the Nature & Context of IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

The RESOLVE network and community partners Rainbow Resource Centre, OUT Saskatoon, and Sagesse, have completed data collection and analysis for the project: *Examining the Nature & Context of IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ Communities.* This tri-provincial project examined the experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ survivors of IPV and their experiences of help-seeking across the Prairie provinces. The final research report is now available for download on the RESOLVE website.

Attachment and Child Health (ATTACH™)

The Attachment and Child Health (ATTACH™) psychoeducational program for families affected by adversity, such as domestic abuse, were undertaken with 64 Albertan parents and their birth to five-year-old children. Findings revealed positive impacts of ATTACH™ on the security of children's attachment to their parents, parent-child relationship quality, parental reflective function, children's development and behaviour, and children's immune cell gene expression. Since then, we attained $1 million from CIHR to scale and spread the program across the Prairies. We have successfully trained nearly 90 facilitators, of which 12 have attained full ATTACH™ facilitator certification in three provinces. We have recruited 20 families and are on target to attain our 100-family sample by study end. For more information, you can refer to ATTACH™ publications or contact Dr. Nicole Letourneau at Nicole.Letourneau@ucalgary.ca.

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

We have finalized our research project "*Responding to Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Rural Municipalities Across the Prairies.*" This was a tri-provincial project that explored the experiences of rural women and intimate partner violence (IPV) and their help-seeking in the prairie provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. We have found that across the three prairie provinces, rural women experienced various forms of abuse that negatively impacted their psychological and physical health and well-being, relationships, mothering, and their socio-political and socio-economic status often resulting in homelessness, insecure housing, loss of savings, loss of employment, or a loss of legal status and health coverage for immigrant women. Read more.

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

Prairie*action*

Thank you to the Prairie*action* Foundation for funding the RESOLVE Network and supporting our research aimed at ending family and gender-based violence.

RESOLVE Manitoba Update

RESOLVE Manitoba Project Updates

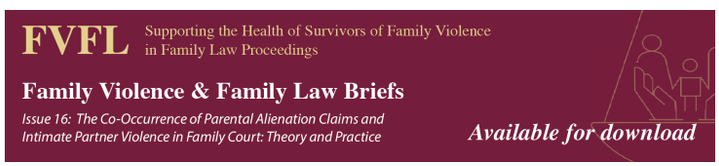
COVID-19 and the Experiences of IPV Survivors and Service Providers

Locally, data collection for RESOLVE Manitoba's project: *COVID-19 and the Experiences of IPV Survivors and Service Providers* is underway. Interviews are currently being completed with both survivors of IPV and service providers delivering supports to those affected in Manitoba. The project aims to understand how pandemics impact these groups and how Manitoba can better prepare to better serve these communities during future emergencies.

Supporting the Health of Survivors of Family Violence in Family Law (FVFL) Proceedings (Community of Practice Project)

On the national level, RESOLVE Manitoba is involved in the FVFL project, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The project is a collaborative effort among the Alliance of Canadian Research Centres on Gender Based Violence and seeks to enhance support for survivors of violence in the family law system by providing training and resources to family law practitioners. The project has recently entered its second year, where it is focused on expanding Community of Practice networks and continuing to provide learning opportunities and materials to family law practitioners.

To date the project has produced 17 briefs, and hosted 15 webinars. To access these briefs and recorded webinars, or learn more about the project, visit our project website.



Our latest brief explores the issue of parental alienation claims in family court cases involving IPV. The information in this brief is based on the webinar: *The Co-Occurrence of Parental Alienation Claims and IPV in Family Court: Theory and Practice*, featuring keynote speakers, Dr. Peter Jaffe (Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children, Western University), Robynne Kazina (Taylor McCaffrey LLP), and the Honourable Madam Justice Lore Mirwaldt (Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench, Family Division). The brief specifically outlines issues relating to children resisting and refusing parenting time, best practices for family lawyers handling cases with co-occurring allegations of parental alienation and IPV, and reforms to the family law system in Manitoba.

Caught in the Middle: Children's Involvement in the Court Process as it Relates to Intimate Partner Violence

The *Caught in the Middle* project aimed to examine how family and criminal courts intersect in cases involving domestic violence. The project has now come to a close and the research team has produced several reports highlighting the data analysis, research findings and recommendations. The reports, include an Environmental Scan, Legal Scan, Literature review and Final report. These reports are now available for download on the RESOLVE website.

Congratulations to the Carolynne Boivin Scholarship for Research on Family and Gender-Based Violence 2022 Recipients

Tammy Nelson (Faculty of Social Work)

Research Project: West Standing Bear: Two-Eyed Seeing Approach to Working with Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Utilizing Indigenous research methodologies, the aim of this research will gather the knowledge and wisdom from persons with lived experience, knowledge keepers, academics, and local community organizations to inform the creation of a Two-Eyed Seeing healing model for therapeutic interventions for adults who experienced childhood sexual abuse.

Leah McDonell (Faculty of Peace and Conflict Studies)

Research Project: A WAY OUT: Human Trafficking of Inuit Women and Girls

This study is a first attempt to understand human trafficking in Manitoba and its specific impact on Inuit. Knowledge generated will empower the Inuit organizations other allied health service agencies to provide culturally relevant, supportive services for Inuit in Manitoba, filling gaps in services that will support the health and well-being of individuals and families impacted by human trafficking.

Rachel Antonia Dunsmore (Faculty Sociology & Criminology)

Research Project: Best Practices for Strengthening Eldercare: A Policy Review

Building on previous research on long-term institutional care in Canada, the goal of this research is three-fold: First, to review existing literature on best practices regarding community and family-based eldercare. Second, to review eldercare policies in Manitoba and across Canada with a particular focus on community/family-based eldercare. Finally, existing family-based eldercare policies in Manitoba and Canada will then be compared and evaluated with policy approaches to eldercare highlighted in the literature with a particular focus on the security and well-being of older adults.

To learn more about each recipient's research project, visit the RESOLVE Manitoba website.

Welcome Bright Thorsteinson, BSW Field Placement Student

Bright Thorsteinson is a social work student at the University of Manitoba. In their previous field placement, they gained experience working directly with survivors of intimate partner and family violence. Now Bright has chosen to do their placement with RESOLVE to gain more experience working within the larger context of intimate partner violence. Bright is excited to continue to learn from RESOLVE and bring their knowledge and experience of gender identity into their academic work.

Congratulations, Lauren Bresch, RESOLVE Manitoba Research Assistant

Congratulations to Lauren Bresch, Research Assistant at RESOLVE Manitoba for successfully defending her Master's thesis (Sociology & Criminology, University of Manitoba). Lauren's research analyzed how service providers in Manitoba make sense of mothering and the responsibility of protecting children in the context of IPV.

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

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

Network Exchange - STOPS to Violence

A monthly online forum to support learning and information sharing about initiatives and resources that contribute to addressing gender-based violence in Saskatchewan. See: www.stopstoviolence.com/network-exchange

Upcoming session: December 13th, 9-10:30am: Dr. Karen Wood, RESOLVE Sask & Shandrea Verboom from Inclusion Sask

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Mobilization Project Update: Three Short Films About Gendered Violence and Healing

In collaboration with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) Health Services, the Provincial Association of Transition Houses as Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS), and RESOLVE Saskatchewan, this knowledge mobilization project approaches the subject of gendered violence and healing tailored to Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation context and needs. Dr. Marie Lovrod (Women's and Gender Studies, University of Saskatchewan), Dr. Karen Wood (RESOLVE Saskatchewan), Jo-Anne Dusel (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 videos in partnership with PBCN Health Services for PBCN and PATHS to use for prevention, intervention, and healing educational purposes.

The common thread of videos is the focus on hope and healing, with teachings around building healthy relationships based on developing communication skills with loved ones. The first video is titled "Today's Hopes, Tomorrow's Healing: Growing in Love and Respect" with introduction of, for example, definitions of interpersonal violence and the cycle of violence, followed by "scenarios" that play out the use of healthy communication tactics to address tensions in the relationship. In the second video, Madonna Ballantyne shares her experience over the years from surviving interpersonal violence to thriving, by supporting others in their healing. This short video is called "Madonna's Story: Sharing for Hoping and Healing". The closing video is titled "Help, Hope, and Healing: Wisdom Shared by Elders of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation" and includes six Elders from across Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation communities that provide guidance on how to build and maintain healthy relationships. RESOLVE Saskatchewan, PATHS and PBCN staff met in Prince Albert on September 8, to review the final videos and had a group discussion to evaluate the process of working together on this project.

Measuring Gender-Based Violence in Saskatchewan: A Review of Canadian National and Provincial Surveillance Tools

Written by Dana Kolenich & Dr. Karen Wood

Dana is a second-year Master of Public Health (MPH) student at the University of Saskatchewan. Through the MPH program practicum experience, Dana had the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Karen Wood at RESOLVE Saskatchewan on this project. Through formally reviewing existing Canadian gender-based violence surveillance tools, Dana helped identify the requirements for a surveillance tool measuring the rates of gender-based violence in Saskatchewan and outlined an outcomes-based process for the implementation of the tool.

Collecting information on the prevalence and patterns of gender-based violence is necessary for developing effective prevention strategies. However, collecting data on GBV is complex, requiring data collection tools to capture contextual information as well as data on social identities and other variables that are associated with increased rates of GBV. This information is vital to understanding and addressing the root of GBV—gender inequality and associated forms of oppression—and developing strategies to prevent and eliminate GBV. The province of Saskatchewan does not have a surveillance tool in place for collecting data on provincial prevalence rates of GBV, limiting the capacity to understand the extent of the issue in Saskatchewan and, therefore, impacting our capacity to develop effective programs and strategies to combat GBV. We conducted a literature review to (1) evaluate existing GBV surveillance tools used across Canada, (2) to collect information on the strengths and limitations of the existing tools, and (3) to make recommendations based on this information for the development of a Saskatchewan-focused GBV surveillance tool. The development of a Saskatchewan-specific surveillance tool will increase the awareness of the issue of GBV in Saskatchewan and provide the opportunity to analyze and more effectively address and, hopefully, reduce rates of GBV across populations.

RESOLVE Saskatchewan Contact
Dr. Jorden Cummings, Director
1117 - 9 Campus Drive I University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, SK I S7N 5A5 I Canada

Email: Jorden.Cummings@usask.ca
Phone: 306-966-5369

RESOLVE Alberta Update

Men& : A New Website Which is "Supporting Men Bravely"

In 2017 the FearIsNotLove (formerly the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter) engaged a consultant, Dr. Jeff St. John, to write a white paper on the topic of engaging men and boys - with a view to working upstream with men, promoting gender equity, and helping men to have healthy, non-violent relationships.

Dr. St. John reviewed the literature and made recommendations to the leadership team of FearIsNotLove, providing a public health perspective to the problem of family violence - in addition to a women's / human rights and justice perspective. This public health perspective looks at risk factors at play across men's lives, and focuses on determinants of health.

One of the key recommendations of the report was to develop a digital strategy as a means to engage men when they first start experiencing relationship or mental health struggles. Knowing that many men begin by searching for information and help online, it was suggested that FearIsNotLove provide easily accessible information and resources on a digital platform, in the area of emotional and relational wellness. It was also recommended that this work be grounded in the community, and that it convey a positive, hopeful view of men. Read more.

RESOLVE Alberta Introduces Research Assistants & Coordinators

Over the last couple of years there have been a lot of changes at RESOLVE Alberta. We would like to introduce our current Research Assistants and Coordinators working alongside RESOLVE Alberta's Director, Dr. Nicole Letourneau!

Susanne Marshall is a Research Assistant at RESOLVE Alberta. Susanne has worked on two research projects; one which examined the nature and context of IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ communities and one which examined the experiences of women living in rural areas who were impacted by intimate partner violence. Susanne has enjoyed working on projects that shine a light on the complex experiences and perspectives of others. Her educational background includes a degree in Child and Youth Care from the University of Victoria, and she is currently completing a Master of Counselling degree. Outside of her work, she is a wife and mother to two incredible daughters.

Stefan Kurbatfinski is a student at the University of Calgary pursuing a Master's degree in Community Health Sciences specialized in Population/Public Health. His research interests include examining early childhood adversity, parent-child interactions, child and adult mental health, family violence, and 2SLGBTQ+ community-specific phenomena. Additionally, Stefan is interested in the environment, hoping to link how the natural ecosystems interact with humans and their neurocognitive wellbeing. As a member of the CHILD Studies Program led by his primary supervisor Dr. Nicole Letourneau, Stefan has contributed to several projects focused on family violence; specifically, the Rural Women and 2SLGBTQ+ IPV studies.

Olivia has been working part-time with the RESOLVE Alberta team since February 2021. She has worked on both of RESOLVE's latest projects, focused on the experiences of IPV and help-seeking in the 2SLGBTQ+ communities and rural women populations across Alberta. She is also an education coordinator at SafeLink Alberta, where she enjoys educating people on harm reduction practices. Both roles complement Olivia's educational background in Biological Anthropology and her love for all things involving the study of people! In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing, playing video games, and going to the gym.

Jason Novick is a Research Assistant that joined Dr. Letourneau's CHILD studies team in 2015, he has assisted with research related to child development, maternal mental health, and parent-infant/child relationships. In November 2020, Jason joined RESOLVE Alberta as the Project Director for *Examining the Nature and Context of IPV in the 2SLGBTQ+ Community*. Jason has also assisted with project directorship responsibilities for *Rural Women and IPV Across the Prairies.*

Carrie Pohl (she/her) started with the RESOLVE Alberta team in 2020 as a casual Research Assistant. Currently, she is a full-time Research Coordinator for RESOLVE Alberta and Dr. Letourneau's CHILD Studies team. She has worked on recent IPV projects entitled *Examining the Nature and Context of IPV in the 2SLGBTQ+ Community* and *Rural Women and IPV Across the Prairies.* She is also coordinator for the RESOLVE Alberta Steering Committee and Project Manager of the Alliance against Violence and Adversity (AVA) Training Platform.

Alliance Against Violence & Adversity (AVA) Health Research Training Platform Update

Since Dr. Nicole Letourneau and RESOLVE Alberta were granted funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research early in 2022 for the Alliance Against Violence and Adversity (AVA) Health Research Training Platform, she and her team, along with AVA's working groups and committees, have been busy developing program guidelines and processes for AVA programs. Strategic planning for the training platform (led by InsightFormation's Bill Barberg) is also well underway, and workshops to develop the strategic plan have been well-attended by AVA members.

This Fall, the AVA Training Platform will be recruiting Early Career Researchers to participate in the Teaching Release program, Mentors (Community Agency partners and academics) and Scholars (graduate students and/or Post-doctoral Fellows) for the Triadic Mentorship program.

To learn more about the AVA Training Platform visit www.avatraining.ca.

Are you interested in becoming an AVA Member, and/or participating in upcoming AVA activities and programs? Please contact avatraining@ucalgary.ca.

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

Research Participants Needed

RESOLVE Manitoba is interested in talking to newcomer/refugee, male, and rural survivors about IPV that has occurred within the context of COVID-19 and their experiences seeking help. We hope to understand how pandemics impact IPV survivors and service providers. The information from participants will be used to develop policy and practice recommendations for policymakers and service providers. For more information, download our infographic.

Upcoming Events

Examining IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ Communities: Barriers to Accessing Supports for Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Survivors of IPV
November 22, 2022 I 3:00 – 4:30pm (CT) I Zoom I Register here

The Journey Project: Providing Trauma-Informed Legal Support to Survivors
November 30, 2022 I 6:30 – 8:00pm (AST) 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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