

**FAMILY VIOLENCE
STRATEGIES FOR HEALTHY LIVING
&
HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**



A Networking Conference of the
Provincial Caring Partnerships Committee
When: Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Where: St. Thomas University Conference Centre
368 Forest Hill Road, Fredericton

Simultaneous Translation Provided

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the 2012 conference of the Provincial Caring Partnerships Committee. This is our 6th provincial event over fourteen years in our Family Violence Networking Conference Series. The theme for this year's conference is ***"Family Violence: Strategies for Healthy Living and Healthy Relationships"***. Previous conferences have focused on the legal, social and economic consequences of family violence. We have spent less time discussing the challenges of coping with the emotional consequences of abusive inter-personal behavior. Clearly abuse has serious negative consequences for victims. However, the emotional consequences of abuse can be far reaching and devastating to many others. Whether abuse is happening in the family, in the school yard or workplace, or even in cyberspace, we know that friends, family, neighbours, teachers, classmates, co-workers and service providers, can also feel overwhelmed by the stress and anxiety of witnessing, and in many cases, dealing with an abuser and/or attempting to support victims. It is important to identify strategies that help to foster healthy relationships and outcomes for abusers and victims - as well as finding ways to nurture ourselves. The goal of this conference is to share information on the widespread consequences of unhealthy relationships and to promote awareness of programs, services and techniques for promoting healthy living.

"Caring Partnerships" is a voluntary initiative comprised of dedicated not-for-profit agencies, government departments, and individuals working together to create awareness of resources and strategies to prevent every form of family violence in New Brunswick. Our PCPC conferences are intended to further this goal, by sharing current information on family violence issues and providing networking opportunities for those involved in activities for the prevention of family violence across the province of New Brunswick and beyond.

*"Family Violence: Strategies for Healthy Living,
Healthy Relationships"*

Tuesday, May 8th, 2012

- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:30 am Welcome (Conference Co-Hosts)
Jill Fraser, Chimo Helpline
Julie Gallant, Youth in Transition
- 8:45 am Opening Remarks:
Honourable Madeleine Dubé, Minister of Health
- 9:00 am Dr. Walter DeKeseredy (English with simultaneous translation)
- 10:30 am HEALTH BREAK (CHIMO)
- 10:45 am Breakout Session #1
Rina Arseneault (French)
Dr. Bill Patrick (English)
Dr. Deborah Doherty (English)
Anthony Stewart (English with simultaneous translation)
- 11:30 am Breakout Session #2
Rina Arseneault (English)
Dr. Bill Patrick/Sophie Levesque (French)
Dr. Deborah Doherty (English with simultaneous translation)
Anthony Stewart (English)
- 12:10 pm LUNCH
- 1:00 pm Christian Whalen, Acting Child and Youth Advocate (English with simultaneous translation)
- 2:00 pm Reflections with all presenters
- 2:30 pm HEALTH BREAK "Belly Fit" with Isabel Savoie
- 2:45 pm Dr. Sue McKenzie-Mohr (English with Simultaneous translation)
- 3:45 pm Closing Remarks

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New Ways of Thinking About Violence Against Women in Canada

The purpose of this presentation is to review the most up-to-date Canadian sociological research on the extent, distribution, and key sources of male-to-female violence in intimate relationships. Special attention is given to describing how Internet pornography and broader social forces contribute to beatings, sexual, assaults, stalking, and a host of other harms that many women experience behind closed doors

10:30 am HEALTH BREAK (CHIMO)

10:45 am Breakout Session #1
Rina Arseneault (French)
Mental Health and intimate partner violence

For several years now, many organizations that work closely or from afar with the issues of intimate partner violence are facing a growing number of people who are also affected by mental health challenges. This presentation presents several interesting paths, such as:

- What are the links between violence and mental health issues?
- To what extent a situation of violence can lead a person to develop mental health problems?
- To what extent a mental health problem can "explain" that a person is found in a situation of violence, either as an abuser or a victim?

- Is there an intervention strategy when it is necessary to intervene with a person who presents challenges of mental health and is a victim or an abuser?

It is these questions that my presentation has been developed.

Dr. Bill Patrick (English)

Man to Man: Engaging Men in Building Healthy Relationships

Men have a critical role to play in working to promote healthy living and healthy relationships. In an effort to engage men in this work, the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, in consultation with men from various communities, developed the "Man to Man" toolkit. The toolkit is a resource that can be used to begin to engage men in this work and in these conversations. The toolkit has been piloted, and trainings have been successfully conducted using the materials developed by FSACC. This presentation will introduce the audience to the toolkit and to the activities we use, and will address the opportunities and challenges of engaging men in working to end violence against women.

Dr. Deborah Doherty (English)

Recognizing and Responding to Risk Factors for Domestic Homicide in New Brunswick

This presentation examines many of the well-documented risk factors for the escalation of family violence into domestic homicide. The presence of firearms, threats of suicide, depression, personality disorders, alcohol and/or drug addictions, loss of employment, a criminal record, attitudes of entitlement over women, condoning community values, increasing violence towards the victim, separation, and others. None of these risk factors cause domestic homicide. Yet we know that the more risks that exist, the more likely we are to see a lethal outcome. Research on the New Brunswick Silent Witnesses (women have lost their lives at the hands of an intimate partner) shows that the nature and context of these risks can be somewhat different in NB than in provinces with large urban populations. Our challenge is to learn from these deaths with a view to promoting earlier intervention and appropriate responses that recognize and address the unique challenges of provinces with small town/rural communities.

Anthony Stewart (English with simultaneous translation)

The Experience of Emotional Injuries in Domestically Violent Men who have become Non-Abusive

Most men who become violent in their intimate relationships have experienced emotional injuries that often occur very early in their childhood and increase as they become abusive. These injuries are defined as reduced regard for self, emotional pain, mistrust, and inner turmoil and stem from childhood abuse, employment related causes, relationship strain or breakdown, and most significantly, perpetrating intimate partner violence. This presentation will illustrate, in more detail, the causes of these injuries and the language men use to describe these injuries.

- 11:30 am **Breakout Session #2**
Rina Arseneault (English)
Dr. Bill Patrick/Sophie Levesque (French)
Dr. Deborah Doherty (English with simultaneous translation)
Anthony Stewart (English)
- 12:10 pm LUNCH
- 1:00 pm Christian Whalen
Family Group Conferencing and the Youth Criminal Justice Act

Christian Whalen, Acting New Brunswick Child and Youth Advocate, gives a talk on Family Group Conferencing that will address what it is, and its influence on our Youth Criminal Justice Act in reforming youth justice.
- 2:00 pm Reflections with all presenters
- 2:30 pm HEALTH BREAK "Belly Fit" with Isabel Savoie
- 2:45 pm Dr. Sue McKenzie-Mohr
Sustaining Ourselves in the Work We Do

While our work necessarily involves our willingness to be present to stories of significant pain and distress, the meaning we give to this work and our commitment to various forms of self-care can assist us in effectively managing our own reactions. This session will address common challenges faced by those working in the area of family violence and explore means to sustain ourselves and each other in this work.
- 3:45 pm Closing Remarks

Biographies

Honourable Madeleine Dubé, Minister of Health

Ms. Dubé lives in Edmundston with her husband, Mike and has two children, Shawn and Paryse. She is an active member of the community. She attended the Université de Moncton, where she received a Bachelor of Social Work. She has a Masters of Social Work with a specialization in group intervention from Université Laval. As a social worker, she worked for the Department of Health and Community Services and the Region 4 Hospital Corporation Drug Addiction Service. She is certified in the fields of family mediation, grievance mediation, defusing/debriefing, suicide prevention, and toxicology.

Ms. Dubé was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick on June 7th, 1999. She re-elected in the June 9th, 2003, provincial election and sworn in as Minister of Education on June 27, 2003. In February 2006, she was appointed Minister of Family and Community Services and Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Advisory Council on Seniors. She chaired the official Opposition caucus and she was official Opposition critic for areas of interest relating to social development, the Regional Development Corporation, Business New Brunswick and the Population Growth Secretariat. She chaired the Select Committee on Health Care and she was a member of the committee on local governance. She was re-elected to the 57th Legislature in the provincial election held September 27th, 2010. She was sworn in as a Member of the Executive Council October 12th, 2010, and appointed Minister of Health.

Dr. Walter S. DeKeseredy - Keynote Speaker Professor of Criminology University of Ontario Institute of Technology

Walter S. DeKeseredy is Professor of Criminology at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT). He has published 16 books and over 100 scientific journal articles and book chapters on violence against women and other social problems. In 2008, the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma gave him the Linda Saltzman Memorial Intimate Partner Violence Researcher Award. He also jointly received the 2004 Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Society of Criminology's (ASC) Division on Women and Crime and the 2007 inaugural UOIT Research Excellence Award. In 1995, he received the Critical Criminologist of the Year Award from the ASC's Division on Critical Criminology (DCC) and in 2008 the DCC gave him the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Christian Whalen
Acting Child and Youth Advocate

Mr. Whalen was appointed Acting Child and Youth Advocate for New Brunswick in April 2011. A native of Fredericton, Whalen holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (1987) from Carleton University; a Bachelor of Law degree (1989) from the University of New Brunswick; and a diplôme d'études approfondies (1993) from l'Université Robert Schuman in Strasbourg, France. A member of the bar in Ontario (1991) and New Brunswick (1991), Whalen worked as a lawyer in private practice and as legal counsel to the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission before joining the Office of the Ombudsman in 2005 as legal counsel. He has been responsible for systemic investigations and acted as lead investigator on several reports of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, including *Connecting the Dots*, *Hand-in-Hand* and *Staying Connected*. He was also the project lead on the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate's annual State of our Children and Youth reports.

Guest Speakers:

Rina Arseneault, MSW, RSW
Associate Director of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research

Ms. Arseneault has been the Associate Director of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research since November 1993. From 2001 to 2003, she worked in the Psychiatry Emergency Services and at the HIV/ AIDS Clinic at the Ottawa Hospital. She is recognized as an activist and educator on women issues. She has organized numerous training opportunities and workshops. She also helped to develop the 8-course credited UNB Certificate program in Family Violence Issues and taught two of the courses.

Her experience includes extensive work with community -- organizations, individual researchers, government agencies, the media and victims of violence. In 1997, Ms. Arseneault was honoured with the NB Advisory Council on the Status of Women Recognition Award for her contribution to improving the status of women in New Brunswick. She also received the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation Award in 2002, for her work in violence against women and family violence

Bill Patrick, Ph.D.

Counsellor (Interim) New Brunswick Community College

Bill Patrick has been active in working to eliminate men's violence against women since he was a university student in 1988. He has worked as an ally alongside several feminist organizations that work to reduce sexual and domestic violence, including transition houses and crisis lines.

His Ph.D. dissertation research explored how men's limited emotional repertoire is implicated in men's violence in relationships. His career has been spent moving back and forth between counselling and teaching roles. He has worked with male survivors of childhood sexual abuse, and has taught numerous courses on men and masculinity.

Throughout his years of working with males in various psychotherapeutic, educational, and social justice contexts, Bill has become increasingly convinced that using a feminist-informed approach is the only truly effective and compassionate way to work with men and boys.

Sophie Levesque

Francophone Facilitator, Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Center

Sophie Levesque has been a member of the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Center since December 2010. She is also presently the francophone community facilitator for the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Center. In May 2012, she will be graduating from St Thomas University's Liberal Arts Program with a Major in Psychology.

Dr. Deborah Doherty

Executive Director of Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick

Ms. Doherty has been actively engaged in family violence research and programming for 20 years. She has created numerous family violence publications and public awareness campaigns, most recently with a focus on the connection between firearms victimization of rural women and animal abuse. As a member of the NB Silent Witness Project, Deborah conducts domestic homicide research and speaks out about lessons learned, risks factors and possible solutions. She is also one of the founding members of the Safe for Pets Too committee

Anthony Stewart BN RN

Nursing Instructor - Psychiatric Nurse

Anthony graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1988 and a Bachelor of Nursing from the University of New Brunswick in 2007. He has been working on a Masters of Nursing of Nursing since the fall of 2007.

He has worked as a part-time and casual nurse on the psychiatric unit of the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton since 2007 and is employed as a nursing instructor with the Faculty of Nursing at UNB in Fredericton. His areas of interest are mental health/psychiatric nursing, intimate partner violence and education.

Isabel Savoie

Department of Culture, Tourism and Healthy Living

Ms. Savoie is Wellness Consultant with the in the area of mental fitness and resilience. She had the opportunity do offer various workshops and presentations at the provincial, national and international level and has worked on a number of projects in the health and wellness field in both New Brunswick and India. She has a Masters degree in counselling and a Bachelor of Psychology from the Université de Moncton.

Dr. Sue McKenzie-Mohr

Associate Professor of Social Work at St. Thomas University

Dr. Sue McKenzie-Mohr is Associate Professor of Social Work at St. Thomas University. Before accepting a position at STU in 2003, she had been a practicing social worker for fifteen years, having worked in a shelter, hospitals, and community-based and university counselling centres. She remains actively involved in the community, having participated on numerous committees including Transition House, Chimo, and the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre Boards of Directors. Sue's research interests include women's navigation of the post-rape process, and experiences of trauma in the lives of homeless youth. She is currently co-editing a book for Routledge with Dr. Michelle LaFrance. The text seeks to shed light on women's use of counterstories and narrative repair in response to oppressive conditions.

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