

WOMEN

making waves

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Numbers are people, too.



By S. Higgins



A word about statistics. When it comes to statistics relating to violence against women and children it's important to know that you don't have to be a math expert to understand the numbers. You simply have to be willing to recognize that each statistic represents a woman, child, or family — a life — torn apart by violence and abuse.

Every number has a face.

We cannot escape the facts. And the facts consistently demonstrate that women and girls are disproportionately victimized in our society in ways that threaten their physical, emotional, psychological and sexual wellbeing. This issue goes beyond human rights violations and points instead to the reality of systematic gender-based abuse perpetuated year after year, generation after generation, against half the world's population.

The causes of violent incidents are rarely physiological, not likely the result of chemical or alcohol abuse, and generally not isolated in occurrence according to most research (Nancy Myer-Emerick: An Analysis

of Intent & Perception, 1994). In a broader context, violence is more often a result of unequal power between men and women. So let's face some facts:

- 54% of girls under age 16 have experienced some form of unwanted sexual attention; 24% have experienced rape or coercive sex; 17% have experienced incest (Holmes & Silverman 1992; Russell 1996)
- Sexual abuse prevalence rates are in the range of 20 to 30% for females and 7 to 15% for males (Bagley 1991; Briere 1992)
- 63% of all sexual assaults reported to police involve girls under the age of 18 (Russell 1996)
- 84% of the victims of sexual assault are girls and 97% of the perpetrators are male. In 22% of the sexual assault cases a weapon was used (Department of Justice 1992)
- Girls are two to three times more likely to experience sexual abuse than boys (Johnston & Saenz 1997)
- Canadian statistics on child sexual abuse reveal that 64% of all reported sexual assaults are against children; 33% of those assaults occur at the hands of family members, half of whom are parents, with 97% of the perpetrators being male (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 1994)

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- In a survey of 3 major Canadian hospitals: 75% of children admitted for sexual assault were female, as were 48% of children admitted for physical abuse (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 1994)
- The rate of sexual abuse for girls with disabilities is quadruple that of the national average (Razack 1994)
- A Toronto study of runaways found that 86% of the girls and 50% of the boys had experienced sexual abuse (Welsh et al. 1995)

Nowhere do these numbers indicate the immeasurable suffering and pain of the victims who experience isolation, fear, powerlessness, physical injury or even death. More significantly, nowhere do they serve as a call to action from a society that demands immediate governmental response to toxic dog food imports but has yet to deem these terrible and unjust incidences of violence against women and children worthy of national outrage. Ready for more?

- Up to 75% of victims of sex crimes in Aboriginal communities are female under 18 years of age, 50% of those are under 14, and almost 25% of those are younger than 7 years of age (Correctional Service of Canada, cited in McIvor & Nahanee 1998:65)
- The incidence of child sexual abuse in some Aboriginal communities is as high as 75 to 80% for girls under 8 years old (McEvoy & Daniluk 1995)
- 14% of all reported physical assaults are against children; 22% of these assaults are by family members, most often parents. The majority of victims are between the ages of 12 and 17 (68%); 32% are 11 or younger.
- Weapons are used in 28% of cases of physical assault; 59% of victims suffered a minor injury, and 5% suffered a major injury. Most perpetrators are male (78%).
- The majority (70%) of physical assaults against children result in charges being laid (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 1994)
- Canadian girls are victims in 84% of reported cases of sexual abuse, in 60% of reported cases of physical abuse, and in 52% of reported cases of neglect (Thomlinson, Stephens, Cunes, and Grinnel 1991)
- 43% of foster children experience violence within the foster home setting; 60% have been abused in the past; and 5% are still being abused (Kufeldt et al. 1998:21)
- 20% of girl students in Toronto secondary schools report experiencing abuse in their romantic relationships (Mercer 1987)
- 35% to 50% of young adults are involved in some level of physical abuse of their partners (Danielson et al. 1998)
- 39% of women who experience marital violence report that their children also witness the violence (Stats. Canada Violence Against Women Survey 1993)

- Almost 50% of youths in four residential treatment agencies and one youth shelter reported that they had witnessed their mothers being “slapped, hit, pushed, or punched” and of these, 50% witnessed injury to their mothers (Carlson 1990)
- The Ontario Native Women's study on violence against women in Aboriginal communities reports that 80% of women and 40% of children are abused and assaulted (Lynn & O'Neill 1995)
- Between 1981 and 1992, 13% of homicide victims in Canada were under the age of 18. Family members committed 53% of all child homicides; 80% of these family perpetrated homicides were committed by the parents of the victims (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 1994)
- Adolescent wives (aged 15 to 19) are murdered three times more frequently than adult wives (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics 1994)

What role does society play?

The ultimate goal when faced with statistics that reflect such grim violence must be to establish and pursue a sociocultural framework for change that is rooted in justice for women, and supported by a judicial system that holds perpetrators accountable for their actions. Self-imposed limits on real action are evident in our political and legal systems that actively contribute to further oppression of women and allow for sanctions against perpetrators that are minimal or simply not enforced.



As a society, many of us still subscribe to the mythology that, somehow, the victim ‘asked’ for the abuse or that perpetrators were ‘forced’ by the victim to be abusive (Nancy Myer-Emerick: An Analysis of Intent & Perception, 1994). Such mythology ensures that women are afraid to reveal the extent and nature of the abuse they suffer in order to avoid ridicule, stigma, and the wrath of partners who may intensify the cycle of abuse and further isolate her from any potential network of support. Significantly, immigrant and aboriginal women are often further marginalized since many may be socialized to believe that violence is acceptable and are under enormous pressures from social messages and expectations that challenge their self-worth. Poverty, social isolation, language difficulties, and homelessness further contribute to the victimization of the most vulnerable women in our society.

From the perspective of our government, our own constitutional philosophy of assumed equality has rejected outright the idea that women are abused simply because they are women. This allows government and judicial systems to openly avoid challenging or addressing underlying social issues and works to conceal their complicity with a sociocultural system that largely condones and tolerates violence against women (Habernas, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*, 1989).

Hope for the future.

Fortunately, there are individuals, groups, systems and organizations that actively work to dispel the myths, seek justice for victims, and strive for a future of positive change and empowerment for women. Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) is an organization acting as a feminist voice against violence and oppression. Since 1979, BWSS has focused on the provision of support and advocacy for women who have experienced abuse, as well as education and training for the community about violence against women. As part of a global feminist anti-violence movement, our long-term goal is the elimination of all violence against women.

Our programs and services range from crisis intervention and intake, to Legal Advocacy and Aboriginal Women's Programs, through to specialized trauma related care that manages short-term crises and ensures a focus on long-term, anti-violence initiatives. And we've got a few statistics of our own.

Data from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Support Groups

Total of groups held: 26
Total number of sessions: 416
Number of women who accessed groups for the first time: 361
Number of women who accessed groups on an ongoing basis: 1,287

Ongoing Counseling

Number of new women who were referred: 2,419
Number of women who accessed the program on an ongoing basis: 3,974
Number of new intakes: 610

Crisis Support

Number of new referrals: 4,908
Number of women who accessed the program: 5,485

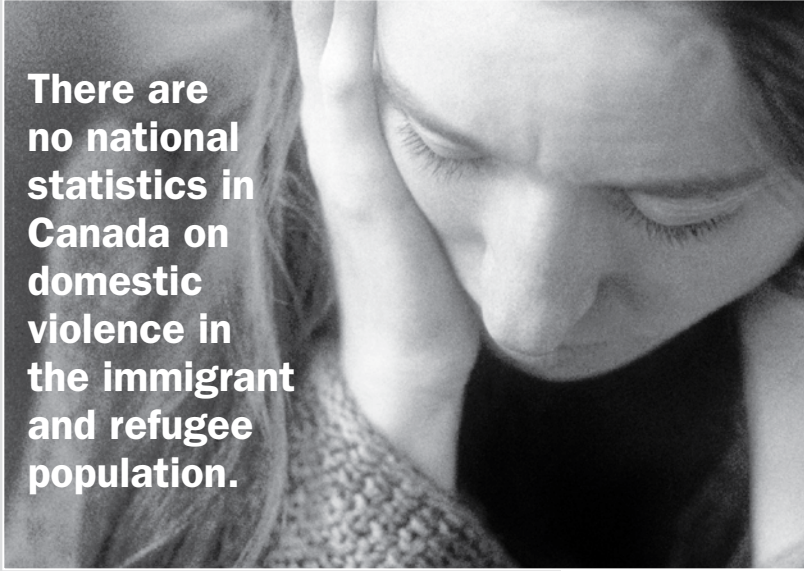
Information and Support

Number of general calls: 4,225

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Police Statistics

There are no national statistics in Canada on domestic violence in the immigrant and refugee population. Therefore, it is not possible to compare the incidence rate of domestic violence of immigrants and refugees with that of the Canadian-born population. However, we do know that social isolation, lack of information about their rights and about available services, lack of English language skills and lack of services available in their own language, immigration and sponsorship issues, poverty, and lack of support from their cultural community increase the vulnerability of abused immigrant women (Light, 2007a & b; Smith, 2004). This particular vulnerability has been tragically illustrated by recent murders and serious assaults against South Asian women in BC. Empowerment of immigrant and refugee women who are victims of domestic violence is the subject of a recent report produced by the Justice Institute of BC (Light, 2007b).



There are no national statistics in Canada on domestic violence in the immigrant and refugee population.

Statistics regarding domestic violence among other marginalized groups are also difficult to access. These include: people of colour; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people; women who are poor; women who have disabilities; and elderly women. It is acknowledged, however, that these groups are also particularly vulnerable to the effects of domestic violence.

(Hightower & Smith, 2001; Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division, 2007b).

Prevention Against

Involving men and boys

Maggie Ziegler

Battered women have complex feelings towards the men who hurt them. Feelings of hurt, anger and disempowerment often sit uncomfortably beside loyalty and love, resulting in internal conflict between the need to escape destructive violence and the desire to be in a relationship. Women often ask for help that would bring safety to their relationship.

The non-violent and connected world women are seeking can only emerge when men and boys work with women to build communities that reject violence and offer men alternative forms of relationship. Both prevention and intervention (responses to batterers who are caught) are essential to holding men accountable and creating alternatives to violence. Both require locating gender violence within a matrix of multiple oppressions and both require men and women working together.

The annual 'parade of brides' in New York City is a gender collaboration that challenges patriarchal attitudes. Latina women dressed in bridal gowns and Latino men dressed in mourning black, along with hundreds of supporters, walk through low-income neighbourhoods to commemorate Gladys Ricart, a Dominican immigrant murdered in 1999 by an ex-boyfriend while wearing her wedding gown.

Alianza (National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence) knows that 'girls in gowns' draw attention but are equally pleased that the men turn heads, as it shows the effectiveness of their work to build partnerships with men who stand against violence, while still honouring culture and diversity.

In Atlanta, men are offered an opportunity to deeply connect to the experiences of women through an innovative internship program in which they participate in volunteer training at a women's centre for ending domestic violence and a rape crisis centre. Like all of Men Stopping Violence's programs, this one promotes dialogue and analysis of interlocking oppressions across barriers of gender and race.

MSV also integrates community into batterer intervention programs, expanding the programs from individual rehabilitation to instruments of wider change. Community volunteers work together with batterers in a 24 week men's education program with the goal of ending violence against women. This program also brings community witnesses into the room. Graduates give back through a community restoration program.

This radical integration of offenders and community members offers a challenge to anti-violence activists in British Columbia, where batterer intervention programs have become isolated, women's programs are often disconnected from the men in their community, and appropriate responses to marginalized communities have been few.

Emerging dialogue between women working with victims of battering and the men and women working with offenders was set back in 2001 when Corrections introduced a two-stage, scripted curriculum group model. The second stage, a 17 week group program is delivered outside of corrections primarily under one centralized contract.

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of Violence Women.

Youth Engagement In Violence Prevention

Perspective, Intention and Prevention

By Ananda Dobbs

It seems like there's a common word that people use when it comes to working with youth and dating violence: *prevention*. I had the opportunity to facilitate a discussion between a group of young women. I had planned to lead the discussion through three key points — Perspective, Intention, and Prevention — the one topic that got everyone talking was prevention.

We discussed violence between girls and that proved interesting but when we reached the “dating violence between girls and boys in intimate relationships” portion of the discussion group I found that a real buzz was created. Many of the younger girls aged 13 to 15 expressed that they were just entering into the realm of intimate relationships. They were excited to discuss the dynamics of intimate relationships. The older

girls (16 – 22) realized that they had experiences that could benefit the younger girls. With perspective and intention under our belts we tackled prevention.

The group agreed that awareness is part of the equation but they felt that there was an integral part of the equation missing. What about learning “What is acceptable?”, “How to communicate your anger”, “What is a healthy relationship?” The girls discussed that the current programs or education that they have been exposed to are very brief and do not go into any real life skills development. The programs seem to concentrate on what the “correct procedure” is but they do not discuss real life and all of the factors that come into play in relationships. Most programs will give you statistics and referrals but they hardly entertain the idea that a girl might

not want to leave her relationship even if it had turned violent.

It became evident that the prevention programs in place currently are not inspiring young women since they feel that the violence in relationships issue is given as much weight in the CAPP (career and personal planning) programming as resume writing or career planning is. The consensus was that young women and men need more experience and need to learn skills that they can take into their personal relationships. This group in particular agreed that it would be best to learn these skills in a program that was fun.

The skills that the girls identified as being useful included:

- Being able to identify what is acceptable in terms of expressing anger
- Learning to: feel confident about your body and your appearance, to talk to guys, how to “be there for friends”, how to create a set of standards that works for you, and how to be in a relationship.

The group felt compelled to address the question that had been given to them at the beginning of

the discussion “If you as a group could design a youth engagement program what would it look like?”

Suggestions included:

- Small groups to discuss opinions
- Going into schools and working with small groups
- Running a program that took place outside of school — the teachers could take classes off-site to engage
- Running a program as a “girls night out”
- Better if its not forced on you but voluntary
- Relating and listening to other youth
- Run by youth
- The program would have to ensure privacy for all participants

The girls agreed that there could be girls only, boys only and co-ed programs.

After being involved in this process I feel that we have our hands on some really important information. We were given some key ingredients to create a prevention program that speaks to young women today. I look forward to what BWSS does with this information and I look forward to seeing the impact our programs have on young women's lives.

At Battered Women's Support Services we acknowledge that, increasingly, women who are dealing with the legal system are representing themselves within various legal/justice arenas and therefore forced to thoroughly prepare for each appearance. In order to meet the needs of the women who access the BWSS Legal Advocacy Program through funding from the Law Foundation of BC we have created a **Legal Advocacy Resource Room**.

This space is open for women who are working on legal research or legal documents such as:

- **Provincial Court Forms (Family Law Proceedings)**
- **Supreme Court Forms (Family Law Proceedings)**
- **Writing affidavits**
- **Completing and submitting forms**
- **Completing and submitting orders, and more**

THE LEGAL ADVOCACY RESOURCE ROOM will help women access office equipment, Internet and computers, software, forms, and documents, relevant and critical information to better assist them to complete these tasks conveniently and in a timely manner as well as have the support of trained volunteers and staff members from the Legal Advocacy Program.

THE LEGAL ADVOCACY RESOURCE ROOM will enable women to conduct their own research, to more thoroughly navigate through family law systems, criminal law systems, immigration law systems, divorce, child protection, housing and other related legal needs by accessing websites and documents that will be supplied. The BWSS Legal Advocate will be able to review these documents in follow-up appointments.

For more information and to book time call the Intake and Crisis line at 604 6871867

Why does our legal system force women to appear in court without legal representation? Women arrive at court every day to present their cases in front of a judge while their abusive partner or husband stands a few feet away from them. Women often have limited or no English language skills, no legal training, and no lawyer while their partner or husband almost always has the benefit of legal representation or lawyers.

This resource is our response to what is a reality for many women. BWSS seeks to arm women with information so that they can have a chance as they seek justice.

The Legal Advocacy program at BWSS provides legal support to women who are or have experienced violence in intimate relationships and are currently involved in the justice system. The primary focus of this program is to help women navigate the family law system and the child protection system. The legal advocate also helps women deal with criminal, immigration and other systems, as long as it is as a consequence of having experienced abuse in an intimate relationship.

BWSS's Legal Advocate, Darla, has continued to exclusively concentrate on several areas including providing legal information and assistance to women dealing with the legal system, providing accompaniment to court and other legal appointments, expanding networking relationships, creating awareness in the community, accumulating knowledge on family law and related issues and assisting BWSS staff when needed.

Through establishing and maintaining excellent working relationships with community agencies the program has expanded its networking within the legal communities. These relationships ensure a strong network of support for women. BWSS currently has strong relationships with numerous lawyers in private practice who support both our work and women who need legal advice.

The Legal Advocacy Program continues to offer court accompaniment. The common requests for accompaniment are usually to both Provincial and Supreme Court hearings, to Family Court Conferences, to Judicial Case Conferences, to legal aid intakes, to lawyer's appointments, to Family Justice Centre appointments, to Duty Counsel, and to file documents at Provincial and Supreme Court registries. Throughout those accompaniments, the Legal Advocate serves not only as a source of support, but also and especially to act as an interpreter to the women, by translating 'legalese' to plain language and ultimately improving accessibility to the legal system.

Specifically, the Legal Advocate:

- Helps women identify/prioritize their legal needs
- Helps women choose realistic and fair legal solutions that are their own
- Provides legal information on process, legislation, role of different system players, etc.
- Helps women strategize in building their case (by providing information and principles, views of violence against women as they relate to her individual case)
- Gives women tips for legal research/self-advocacy
- Helps women draft documents of a legal nature
- Provides accompaniment to family court (both Provincial and Supreme), especially to unrepresented women, but also to women who have legal representation, as requested
- Provides accompaniment to legal aid appointments, lawyer's appointments
- Refers women to appropriate services to ensure legal representation and/or legal advice

Police Statistics

In 2006, 12% or approximately 1 in 8 persons prosecuted in B.C. were domestic violence cases. This does not include those returning to court on breaches of orders as a result of prosecution for domestic violence.

(Ministry of Attorney General,
Criminal Justice Branch, 2007).



In March BWSS was awarded funding through a Public Interest Law Student Employment Project — a joint initiative of the law faculties of the University of BC and the University of Victoria. The Law Student will conduct research and:

1. Investigate how family law case outcomes can differ when women have — or do not have — access to legal representation or support
2. Uncover barriers in legal processes or programs that are postulated to help women from a legal perspective
3. Establish the viability of existing legal aid options and demonstrate how legal avenues may be exploited by abusers to ensure ongoing oppression of women
4. Examine the outcome of cuts and revisions in Family Law that have a particular impact on Immigrant or Aboriginal women in our community

In April, Karen, a 2nd year UBC Law Student, joined our team. Her work will enhance BWSS's ongoing mandate of identifying systemic policy and practice issues that undermine or compromise a positive outcome for women in family courts. Karen will revive BWSS's mandate of conducting legal analysis and attempting to negotiate solutions, and build on our practice of participatory, grass roots research by engaging women who access our services in the process and solutions.

Legal Education

- BWSS provides legal advocacy workshops to women and the community. Information gathered during this project will be directly integrated in to existing training.
- BWSS will create resources for anti-violence workers utilizing the information gathered during this project.

Public Interest Law Student Project

Legal Research

- The project focuses on an area in need of further study, analysis and public policy reform. Our work will increase knowledge of law, social policy and the administration of justice in this area and put forward solutions to existing gaps and barriers.

Legal Aid

- The project will provide critical policy and legal information to women and anti-violence community services and non-profit organizations that address issues of violence. This project focuses on legal aid and the policy and practice framework within which women who have experienced violence must access the family law system.

Law Reform

- Our project will promote changes to law, public policy and the administration of justice in the area of legislation that affects women who have experienced violence and are now accessing the family law system.
- We will endeavour to promote changes that bring current law, policy and the administration of justice more in line with knowledge and values of safety, empowerment and equality.

Law Libraries

- The materials produced by this project will be distributed to law libraries and resource centres and made available to lawyers and the public.

Battered Women's Support Services attended the Law Conference at Quaaout Resort at Shuswap Lake. The topic was "Reconciling Indigenous & Canadian Legal Traditions". Our staff participated in the break-out discussions that gave us the opportunity to speak on the anti-violence work we do and to give our feedback and ideas.

When we speak about reconciliation between the Canadian Government and the Indigenous people of this land it must start with Respect, Recognition, and then Reconciliation. It begins by respecting the importance of oral traditions and traditional laws that Aboriginal people had pre-contact. It means Recognizing the First Peoples of this land and their way of life as traditional law.

Canada is the only country in the world to have voted twice against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Canada voted against the Declaration because Canada couldn't accept the principles of land rights and prior informed consent enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This highlights the fundamental contradiction Canada faces when it comes to the economic dimension of the human rights of Indigenous peoples; the government of Canada does not want to make the necessary economic adjustments to guarantee the fundamental rights & freedoms of Indigenous peoples. It is up to us and the Canadians who understand the human rights of

Indigenous people to hold Canada and the Canadian economic system accountable.

During the conference, round after round of speakers spoke on their area of expertise. William Blackwater spoke on the psychological traumas of the residential schools. One of the things that stood out for me was Mr. Blackwater's chilling statement, "The last residential school is alive until we work on the issues within ourselves and our communities." I thought about this and how to contextualize this in the anti-violence work that I do. We as Aboriginal People have relationship with our past, present and our future. We are survivors of colonization and the devastating impact. It starts with the healing process and the healing movement that is happening within our families and communities.

When I listen and witness the stories of Aboriginal women who are speaking of their own pain of patterns of abuse that started with colonization I weep inside and feel the horrors of abuse with them. I validate their anger and acknowledge their resiliency, strength, beauty. When we talk about reconciliation, part of it is to open up the eyes of people who don't know the history of Aboriginal people. It is to put the harsh realities of colonization and cultural genocide in the context of education and prevention. To achieve the Truth is the starting point. Reconciliation begins by Respecting our sacred laws and traditions, Recognizing the cultural genocide of Aboriginal people and working within our traditional laws to Reconcile the painful history of our people.



Reconciling Indigenous & Canadian Legal Traditions

By Mona Woodward

BWSS Engaging Immigrant Women in the Legal System

By Parminder
and Daniela
Project
Co-ordinators

For over 30 years Battered Women Support Services has supported immigrant women who experience violence in their intimate relationships. This project grows out of the legal barriers immigrant women share with us again and again. Hearing their experiences, combined with our knowledge of systemic barriers, unveils a family law legal system that is based in colonial, patriarchal perspectives of the world, and, as a result, is largely inaccessible to marginalized immigrant women experiencing violence in intimate relationships. Current legal resources are insufficient and fail to understand and meet the complex needs of immigrant women. A consequence is that women are forced to self represent in court with class/cultural/ethnic/language barriers that make them

vulnerable to further victimization.

Arising from the BWSS commitment to social change, the Engaging Immigrant Women in the Legal System project objective is to use empowerment methods to minimize the power imbalance immigrant women experience when they access the legal system, and to make the legal system more accessible. We will do this by seeking full participation of immigrant women from three communities (South Asian, Persian/Afghani and Latin American) who are survivors of violence and who are dealing with the legal system. Working with the women, we will analyze current legal issues and systemic barriers through a women-centered and ethno-racial lens. Some of the components of our

project are to:

- Expand community links among anti-violence community leaders and frontline workers
- Develop an advisory committee of frontline workers who are immigrant women
- Develop an empowerment and skill-based training program and train a core group of immigrant women from the three communities
- Guide the Core Group to facilitate focus groups in the target communities
- Analyze and review the information collected to create sustainable community resources from a women-centered ethno-cultural lens.

Our project aims to make public the voices of immigrant women by their active engagement in analyzing systemic legal issues from

their experience and perspective. We strongly believe engaging immigrant women will better equip us to come up with strategies that effectively address the barriers they face. This project ultimately intends to create legal system change through the empowerment of women and a strengthened community response to legal barriers.

For more information please contact

Project Co-ordinators Daniela
and Parminder

at 604-687-1868
or e-mail at
daniela.legalproject@bwss.org
and parm@bwss.org.

This project is funded by

THE  LAW
FOUNDATION
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Reaching
out to
support
women...**

By Rosa

BWSS has identified a high number of women who have been victims of violence and are in need of support and resources but do not have the ability

to access them. In December 2007, BWSS provided outreach to women survivors of violence in collaboration with the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre and Inner City Women's Initiative and funded by the Ministry of Solicitor General. The BWSS Outreach Program supports women from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds and responds to the needs of adult women who have experienced, or are at risk of, violence.

Approximately sixty women a month are reached through the BWSS Outreach Program. Once a week, BWSS staff and volunteers connect with women at St. Paul's Hospital, Dr Peter's Centre and BC Women's Hospital to provide emotional support, counselling, information, referrals, personal care items, clothing from BWSS's Retail Program, and harm reduction supplies. BWSS staff also provide information to hospital staff to raise awareness about the impact of violence on women and the services necessary to address it.

Battered Women's Support Services is committed to the ongoing provision of support through its Outreach Program as we work to overcome the social factors that contribute to the victimization and oppression of women in our communities.

The BWSS Outreach Program expects to engage with approximately 550 women who have been victims of violence, and to provide the framework for support they so desperately need.



Workshops will be held
Wednesdays from 1pm to 3pm

Location: DiverseCity
#1107-7330-137 street
Surrey, B.C. V3W 1A3

In Attendance: The BWSS Legal Advocate, a volunteer presenter (may be male) and women who need support with their current legal cases.

Format of Workshop: These workshops are designed for women who are ineligible for legal aid and/or in need of legal support for their cases. Lawyers and other professionals with experience on the topic will facilitate all workshops. Women may bring forms or relevant paperwork to the workshop for their own self-reference.

What is provided?

- Legal information, strategies for specific legal issues/topics
- Resources
- Coffee/tea

Legal Advocacy Workshops

Legal Advocacy Workshops are for women in need of legal information on their current family law cases.

Session 1 Legal Resources April 16, 2008 1pm - 3pm	Session 7 Maintenance Orders May 28, 2008 1pm - 3pm
Session 2 Legislation and Principles of Family Law April 23, 2008 1pm - 3pm	Session 8 Division of Assets & Property June 4, 2008 1pm - 3pm
Session 3 Applying for Orders and Varying Orders April 30, 2008 1pm - 3pm	Session 9 Judicial Case Conferences & Family Case Conferences June 11, 2008 1pm - 3pm
Session 4 Ex-Parte & Restraining Orders & the Criminal Justice System May 7, 2008 1pm - 3pm	Session 10 Do It Yourself Divorce and Tips for Self-Representation June 18, 2008 1pm - 3pm
Session 5 Writing Affidavits May 14, 2008 1pm - 3pm	Session 11 Child Protection System June 25, 2008 1pm - 3pm
Session 6 Section 15 Reports May 21, 2008 1pm - 3pm	Session 12 Immigration System July 2, 2008 1pm - 3pm

MAXIMUM 20 WOMEN PER WORKSHOP

For registration call Pam or Lokayata at 604-597-0205 ext 1202

The Legal Advocacy Workshops are made possible through funding from the Law Foundation of B.C.

www.bwss.org

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Counseling 687-1867 • Business 687-1868 • TTY 687-6732 • Fax 687-1864



presents...



Mother's Day



Home Decor Event

Come join us @ our Commercial Drive location-1029 Commercial Drive- on Saturday May 10 & Sunday May 11 for our celebration of house and home! Great deals on amazing house wares.



WOMEN
making waves

Diversity

Percentage of women who self identified as recent immigrants: 42%
Percentage of women who self identified as Aboriginal, Indigenous, First Nations, Native, Indian or Metis: 18%
Percentage of women who self identified as refugee: >1%
Percentage of women who self identified as lesbian or bi-sexual: 2%

The time to act is now.

BWSS's intake, counseling and support statistics could be viewed as overwhelming, depressing or representative of an insurmountable problem. But we believe that these numbers represent the thousands of positive opportunities we have had to change our world — by supporting and empowering one woman at a time.

Fortunately, there are individuals, groups, systems and organizations that actively work to dispel the myths, seek justice for victims, and strive for a future of positive change and empowerment for women.

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Simply relating these statistics does not expose the injustice and inhumanity that women suffer everyday in our own backyard. But they do serve to shine a light on the enormity of this issue and the need for immediate action on the part of all people in society.

It's safe to say that if any ethnic, national or religious group were to be attacked, dominated, oppressed or violated in such numbers it would constitute a state of emergency that could not be ignored. We urge you to seek more information, volunteer with local organizations, and explore what you can do to help. It's time to end this outrage and create a society where our mothers, sisters, aunts, nieces, daughters and partners are valued, safe, and empowered.

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Continued from page 4

Many of those involved in developing men's programs are no longer involved, communication breakdowns have occurred between women's organizations and batterer's programs, and there are fears that the essential gender analysis may become lost. And the batterer intervention programs entirely exclude self-referred or voluntary men, removing a link to community.

Over the last two years, Battered Women's Support Services has worked to reverse the gap between men and women in the anti-violence movement. We do this by engaging members of marginalized communities and developing partnerships with male community leaders involved in environmental, immigration, anti-racist and aboriginal justice movements who are conscious of power dynamics and women's realities.

Angela MacDougall, executive director of BWSS, says that this outreach has led to both dialogue and action about how men and women in diverse communities can work to end violence. Most recently, in April 2008, Maestro aka Wesley Williams, referred to as the "godfather of Canadian hip hop," joined forces with BWSS to hold an event to bring an anti-sexism message to hip hop enthusiasts and together raise awareness about violence against women.

Grace Perez, a founding member of Alianza's Brides' March, understands the need for inclusiveness.

"Men have to join the struggle," she said. This is necessary to support Alianza's vision which is: *to promote understanding, initiate and sustain dialogue, and generate solutions that move toward the elimination of domestic violence affecting Latino communities, through an understanding of the sacredness of all relations and communities.*

Jerry Tello, a member of the National Compadres Network in Santa Ana, California, shares this vision. He thinks that creating real change requires violent and deeply wounded men to get "involved in a way that touches their culture, spirit and values," as unhealed wounds are passed on to future generations.

This relational approach to healing is echoed in the wholistic worldviews of First Nations and in modern systems theories that stress the interdependence and interconnection of all life. Connectivity is also the core of the cultural-relational feminist model, developed by the Stone Center, which emphasizes engaged and authentic relationships. Connection needs nurturing – within the self, to others, and our wider social and cultural environments.

BWSS is part of a growing movement to develop creative collaborations to end violence that cross gender and racial lines, and challenge patriarchy and colonization. When women and men work together to create communities that do not tolerate violence and in which people have a sense of belonging, women are safe.

**BWSS
PRESENTS**



MAY 23

An Integrated Framework for Supporting Women who use Substances

Women's experience of substance use is very different from men's

A One Day Workshop that will offer a framework for understanding and supporting women who use substances recognizing the impact of sex and gender differences.

Traditional approaches to understanding substance use and supporting women have often not reflected the complexities of women's lives such as interconnections between substance use, violence and mental illness and the stigma and guilt related to mothering and pregnancy.

Upon completing the workshop, participants will be able to:

- 1 Describe a continuum of substance use**
- 2 Describe a holistic model of addiction**
- 3 Explain women-centred care**
- 4 Describe women-centred harm reduction**
- 5 Identify resources to support discussions about substance use with women**
- 6 Identify examples of tailored interventions for women**

Date: Friday, May 23, 2008
Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Location: SFU Harbourside
Tree Islands Industries
Conference Room
515 West Hastings Street
Vancouver
FEE: Sliding Scale \$40 - \$150

Facilitated by Cristine Urquhart, MSW, RSW • Cristine brings a women-centred view to her work as a training consultant on women and substance use and related health concerns. Cristine is currently the Provincial Training Consultant for the ActNow BC - Healthy Choices in Pregnancy initiative at the BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health. In her role Cristine translates knowledge on better practices for supporting women who use substances to service providers who work with pregnant women and women in their childbearing years. Cristine is an active member of the international Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT) and a BC Association of Social Workers board member.

courage on the frontline



Ministry of Solicitor General Gaming Enforcement Branch And Ministry of Solicitor General Victim Services And Crime Prevention Branch



Funding Partners:

To register call Heidi at 604-687-1868 or finance@bwss.org

WOMEN making waves

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by **Battered**

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supporting women facing
abuse and violence.

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Monthly Giving One Man's Commitment to Ending Violence Against Women

Battered Women's Support Services relies on the support of individuals and organizations that share our passion and commitment to ending violence against women in our communities. Some choose to donate a single amount at a

specific time in response to a personal situation or a solicitation. Others choose to donate on a regular, monthly basis and have become partners with BWSS in working toward the reality of a safe and secure society.

One such partner is Harry McKelvie, a retired Psychiatric Nurse who knows that his decision to give to charitable causes can truly make a difference. Harry currently supports six charities including BC Children's Hospital and the SPCA, and he has been a monthly donation partner with BWSS for over six years.

"I met a wonderful lady many years ago when we were both training to become nurses," said Harry, "and although we both married other people we met again later in life. It was then that I discovered she had been helped to leave a very damaging relationship that she had endured for almost 25 years with her husband."

The organization that supported Harry's friend was BWSS and Harry recalled feeling inspired by the message of hope and healing that BWSS had provided his friend. "Even today, she still bears the scars from that relationship, physical as well as emotional, and I think the world of any organization like BWSS that does so much to help women when they really need it the most," says Harry. "Unfortunately, this friend is not the only woman I have known who has needed help to escape from an abusive situation. That's why I'll continue to give what I can because there are a lot of women who need the same type of help my friends received."

Becoming a monthly donor helps us stretch your donation further. Your gift goes a long way to ensuring that BWSS maintains a stable organizational cash flow and reduces our costs where possible. Knowing our finances for the year also makes us more able to plan and implement the critical programs, education and services that support women who are experiencing violence and crisis in their lives. Overall, your monthly donation:

- Is a consistent and reliable source of funding, allowing BWSS to respond immediately to critical issues that are impacting women
- Is cost efficient and can be processed more readily than a one-time donation, leaving even more money for BWSS services
- Is environmentally friendly using less paper and other resources because it can be pre-authorized or automated

BWSS will make your decision to give monthly easy, flexible and convenient. The benefits to you include:

- An easy, pre-authorized credit card or bank account deduction
- Flexibility — you can increase, decrease, pause or stop your donation at any time
- A convenient tax receipt reflecting the total of all your donations each year
- Absolute confidentiality — BWSS will not trade, rent or in any way make your name available to other organizations
- Access to our monthly newsletter and relevant news that demonstrates the result of your monthly gift

Like Harry McKelvie, you will benefit from the knowledge that your monthly gift is helping BWSS reach out to women with practical, real-life support and a message of hope as we work to transform our society into one in which all violence against women is simply unacceptable.

yes! I would like to support BWSS in your work to end violence against women.

I would like to donate \$
immediately to BWSS.

Monthly Sustaining Member

I wish to join the *Circle of Strength* monthly giving club and make my gift of \$ every month.

I authorize BWSS to bill my credit card on the 1st of each month. *I understand that I may cancel my contribution at any time with written notice.*

Payment Information

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Your gift is tax deductible. We will send you a tax receipt.

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<http://bwss.org/donations/index.htm>

You can also call us at 604-687-1868 and speak with Heidi