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## **Domestic and Family Violence Special Bulletin**

### **May 8, 2009**

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This week's bulletin provides an overview of some recent news, reports and research studies, current initiatives, events, and resources about domestic and family violence. It includes a selection of information based on a preliminary scan and previous MNCHP postings. We invite you to share other relevant information and resources about this topic.

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### ----- I. OVERVIEW: DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE -----

#### **1. Family and Domestic Violence**

(also available in French)

According to Statistics Canada (2008), over 38,000 incidents of spousal violence were reported to the police in 2006 across Canada but there has been a decline in police-reported spousal violence from 1998 to 2006. The most likely victims of police-reported spousal violence were females, with 38% of victims compared to 17% males. Family and domestic violence happens across all ethnic, racial, religious, age, and socio-economic groups (Canadian Women's Foundation, 2008). For every 100,000 children and youth under 18 years of age, 334 were victims of physical or sexual violence by a friend or an acquaintance, 187 experienced violence by a family member, and 101 were victimized by a stranger (Statistics Canada 2008). When children and youth are victims of family violence, parents are the most commonly identified perpetrators (107 per 100,000 children and youth in 2006).

Statistics Canada: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-224-x/2008000/5300006-eng.htm>

French: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-224-x/2008000/5300006-fra.htm>

Canadian Women's Foundation: [http://www.canadianwomen.org/EN/section05/3\\_5\\_1\\_1-violence\\_facts.html](http://www.canadianwomen.org/EN/section05/3_5_1_1-violence_facts.html)

French: [http://www.canadianwomen.org/FR/section05/3\\_5\\_1\\_1-violence\\_facts.html](http://www.canadianwomen.org/FR/section05/3_5_1_1-violence_facts.html)

There are many definitions of family and domestic violence available. The following will provide general definitions of family and domestic violence:

## **A. Family Violence**

(also available in French)

Family violence "is abusive behaviour that can be physical, sexual or psychological. It can also take the form of physical or emotional neglect. Family violence occurs in relationships of kinship, intimacy, dependency, or trust. Individuals can be abused regardless of their age, gender, cultural background, education, income, or place of residence" (Health Canada, 2007).

English: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/activit/strateg/violence-eng.php>

French: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/activit/strateg/violence-fra.php>

## **Family Violence**

(also available in French)

Family violence is defined as "any form of violence that occurs within relationships of kinship, intimacy, dependence or trust. The violence can be physical, emotional, sexual, financial, or take the form of maltreatment or neglect. Family violence happens to men, women and children. People of every marital status, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and economic background can be victims. Even if they are not the direct victims, children who see or hear family violence are affected by it" (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2009). It can occur in many forms including emotional abuse, psychological abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, destruction of property, injury to pets, physical assault, sexual assault, and homicide" (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2009).

English: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/faqs/fv-affect-eng.php>

French: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/faqs/fv-affect-fra.php>

## **B. Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence, is defined as "any use of physical or sexual force, actual or threatened, by a partner or ex-partner. A partner or ex-partner may be opposite-sex or same-sex. Domestic violence can also include threats to harm children, other members of a family, pets and property. Both women and men can be victims of domestic violence, but in a lot of cases the victims are women. Domestic violence can be a one-time use of force. However, often these crimes happen in a pattern. The violence might be meant to scare, intimidate or humiliate, or to make a person feel powerless. The violence might also include a number of acts that could sound minor by themselves, but together make up a pattern of abuse" (Government of Ontario, 2009).

English: <http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/ovss/faqs.asp>

French: <http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/french/ovss/faqs.asp>

## **C. The Effects of Family Violence**

(also available in French)

As reviewed by the Government of Canada (2003), violence in the home has a direct effect on physical health. For example, women who live with physical or sexual violence are more likely to give birth to babies who are born of low birth weight (Murphy et al., 2001). Physical violence on children poses serious risk for physical injury and even death (National Council of Welfare, 1997). Research studies have shown child maltreatment in early childhood is linked to lasting damages to the development of the child's brain (Teicher, 2002). "People who experience family violence are at greater risk of mental health disorders and problems. Moreover, their general health and

well-being are likely to be affected in both the short and long term. They may be injured, maimed, or neglected. They may adopt negative coping techniques that contribute to or worsen medical conditions” (Government of Canada, 2003, p.4).

English: [http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/pdfs/fv-healtheffects\\_e.pdf](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/pdfs/fv-healtheffects_e.pdf)

French: [http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/pdfs/fv-effets\\_f.pdf](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/pdfs/fv-effets_f.pdf)

## ----- II. FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE NEWS -----

### ONTARIO

#### 2. Son Charged in Brampton Slaying

This article (Stancu & McLean, 2009, March 17) reports that a 59-year-old woman was found dead in her Brampton home. Her 28-year-old son has been charged with second-degree murder. The cause of death has not been released but police say “she suffered obvious signs of trauma”. Family members highlight that the son has been battling with depression since his teens and was recently laid off.

<http://www.thestar.com/GTA/Crime/article/603520>

### CANADA

#### 3. Police Investigation into Deaths of Two Quebec Children Continues

A double-murder-attempted suicide appears to have occurred in a house in Peidmont (The Canadian Press, 2009, February, 22). Quebec provincial police spokesman Gregory Gomez del Prado explains that they found “two bodies, the 3-year-old girl and the 5-year-old boy in the house as well as the father, a 36-year-old man, who was alive but needed medical attention”. According to police, the father overdosed on medications and is in hospital listed in stable condition.

[http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/090222/national/children\\_death](http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/090222/national/children_death)

#### 4. Man Charged in Oshawa Homicide

This article (Yutangco & Follert, 2009, February 25) reports that an Oshawa woman was found dead by police. Her common-law husband has been charged with murder. Kelly Bourgeois, a woman that lives in the area notes that she does not know the residents involved, but was saddened to hear the murder was a case of domestic violence: “You like to think that with all the services we have in the community, that this wouldn't be happening anymore, as a woman, it just breaks my heart to hear it” (Yutangco & Follert, 2009, February 25). This is Durham region’s first homicide of 2009.

News Article: <http://www.thestar.com/article/592850>

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 5. Police: Daughter Tried to Hire Undercover Cop as Hitman for Dad's Murder

The article (Owens, Pereira, Ibanga, & Ferran, 2009, February 25) reports that a mother and daughter from Garland Texas tried to hire an undercover cop as a hitman to collect the father’s \$200,000 life insurance policy.

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/story?id=6951438&page=1>

## **6. Miami Man Kills Wife and Two Daughters before Committing Suicide**

A 53-year-old music teacher shot and killed his wife and two daughters before killing himself place in southern Miami-Dade County (The Associated Press, 2009, February 25). His 16 year old son, who survived the brutal attack, called 911 as he escaped the Miami home.

[http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/090225/world/florida\\_four\\_dead](http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/090225/world/florida_four_dead)

## **7. Recent Family Murder-Suicides Only 'The Tip Of The Iceberg', Sociologist Says**

This article (ScienceDaily, 2008, January, 30) examines financial and occupational stressors and their association with family violence. Sampson Blair, associate professor of sociology at the University of Buffalo explains: "Family murder-suicide is still relatively uncommon, but I expect an increase in such incidents over the next few years because economic strain on families provokes depression and desperation...The economic situation also portends a significant increase in other forms of family violence, including spousal and child abuse, child neglect, and other forms of dysfunctional behaviour like substance abuse". Blair also notes that there is a clear association between suicide rates and the state of the larger economy.

News Article: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/01/090130182918.htm>

## **8. Survey Reveals Abuse in Teen Relationships**

According to a survey conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited (2008), 69% of teenagers who had sex by age 14 reported some type of abuse in a relationship. One in five 13 or 14-year-olds in relationships said that they know friends and peers who have been "struck in anger" by a boyfriend or girlfriend. Despite the number of teenagers who said they have experienced abuse or said that they know someone who has, only about 51% said they are aware of the warning signs of a hurtful dating relationship.

[http://www.cnn.com/2008/LIVING/personal/07/08/teen.dating.abuse/index.html?eref=rss\\_health](http://www.cnn.com/2008/LIVING/personal/07/08/teen.dating.abuse/index.html?eref=rss_health)

## **9. Women With Disabilities At Risk for Partner Abuse**

This article reports on the findings of a study that found women with a disability are more likely to experience a physical assault by a spouse or other intimate partner than those without a disability.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE49Q5LJ20081027?feedType=RSS&feedName=healthNews>

## **----- III. CURRENT RESEARCH AND REPORTS -----**

### **CANADA**

## **10. Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2008**

(also available in French)

In 2008, the 11<sup>th</sup> annual report on *Family Violence in Canada* was produced by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistic under the Federal Family Violence Initiative. The report (Statistics Canada Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2008) provides current statistics, facts, trends, graphs, and data tables, investigating family violence against children and youth, seniors (aged 65 years and older), and family-related homicides. The report is also part of an ongoing initiative to help educate policy makers and the public about the nature of family violence in Canada. The main focus of the report is spousal violence in the provinces and territories.

English: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-224-x/85-224-x2008000-eng.pdf>

French: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-224-x/85-224-x2008000-fra.htm>

## **11. Measuring Violence Against Women**

(also available in French)

This report (Statistics Canada, 2006) examines the nature and dimension of violence against women in Canada. The indicators of violence against women studied in this report include: prevalence and severity of violence against women, impact and costs of violence against women, risk factors linked to violence against women, community based and institutional responses, and victims' use of services.

English: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-570-x/85-570-x2006001-eng.pdf>

French: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-570-x/85-570-x2006001-fra.pdf>

## **12. Little Eyes, Little Ears: How Violence Against A Mother Shapes Children as They Grow**

(also available in French)

This report (Cunningham & Baker, 2007) is a resource that provides information about how children experience violence against their mothers and how those experiences may shape them as they grow, from infancy to adolescence. Topics addressed include facts and figures, ten ways a child can be changed by living with violence at home, and some myths about woman abuse and children.

English: [http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/pdfs/fem-2007-LELE\\_e.pdf](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/pdfs/fem-2007-LELE_e.pdf)

French: [http://www.lfcc.on.ca/petits\\_yeux\\_petites\\_oreilles.pdf](http://www.lfcc.on.ca/petits_yeux_petites_oreilles.pdf)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **13. Children's Exposure to Violence in the Family and Community**

This article (Margolin & Gordis, 2004) examined exposure to family and community violence and how it is connected to depression, aggression, posttraumatic stress symptoms, and cognitive and academic difficulties. Violence also has the ability to impact many dimensions of a child's daily life and their social support. The authors also highlight that some children have better outcomes in the face of exposure to violence than others, and that greater understanding of children's risks and resilience will inform intervention efforts.

News Article:

[http://www.psy.miami.edu/faculty/dmessaging/c\\_c/rsrscs/rdgs/peers\\_social\\_general/margolin.exposure2violence.curdir.04.pdf](http://www.psy.miami.edu/faculty/dmessaging/c_c/rsrscs/rdgs/peers_social_general/margolin.exposure2violence.curdir.04.pdf)

### **14. Behind Closed Doors: The Impact of Domestic Violence against Children**

(also available in French)

In August 2006, Unicef and the Body Shop released the first global report examining the degree of children's exposure to domestic violence and the effect on children's health and development. This report uncovers the extent of the problem, offers evidence-based responses, and calls for more action. This report is also part of the UN Secretary-General's Study on *Violence against Children*, released in the fall of 2006.

English:

[http://www.unicef.ca/portal/Secure/Community/502/WCM/WHATWEDO/ChildProtection/pdf/bodyshop/UNReport\\_en.pdf](http://www.unicef.ca/portal/Secure/Community/502/WCM/WHATWEDO/ChildProtection/pdf/bodyshop/UNReport_en.pdf)

French:

[http://www.unicef.ca/portal/Secure/Community/502/WCM/WHATWEDO/ChildProtection/pdf/bodyshop/UNReport\\_fr.pdf](http://www.unicef.ca/portal/Secure/Community/502/WCM/WHATWEDO/ChildProtection/pdf/bodyshop/UNReport_fr.pdf)

## 15. Domestic Violence: What Should Paediatricians Do?

This article (Brooks & Mott, 2008) discusses what paediatricians can do to protect women and children when they uncover a history of domestic abuse.

Selection of article: <http://adc.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/93/7/558?rss=1>

## 16. Violence Against Women Impairs Children's Health

Kajsa Åsling Monemi (2008), a paediatrician for the Department of Women's and Children's Health, monitored more than 3,000 children in Bangladesh. The findings indicate that children to women exposed to some form of violence had lower birth weights and grew less as infants and toddlers. They also got sick more often than other children with diseases like diarrhea and pneumonia.

<http://uu.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2:172360>

## 17. The Impact of Exposure to Domestic Violence on Children and Young People: A Review of the Literature

This article (Holt, Buckley, & Whelan, 2008) reviews the literature about the impact of exposure to domestic violence on the health and developmental well-being of children and young people including: domestic violence exposure and child abuse; impact on parental capacity; impact on child and adolescent development; and exposure to additional adversities. Best practice responses to children's needs are highlighted. "This review advocates for a holistic and child-centered approach to service delivery, derived from an informed assessment, designed to capture a picture of the individual child's experience, and responsive to their individual needs" (Holt, Buckley, & Whelan, 2008).

Abstract: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18752848>

## 18. Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health Special Continuing Education Issue: The Effects of Violence and Trauma on Women's Health

The Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health Special Continuing Education Issue *The Effects of Violence and Trauma on Women's Health* features the following articles:

- Breaking the Barriers: The Promise of Computer-Assisted Screening for Intimate Partner Violence
- Intimate Partner Violence Screening and Brief Intervention: Experiences of Women in Two New Zealand Health Care Settings
- Lifetime and During Pregnancy Experience of Violence and the Risk of Low Birth Weight and Preterm Birth
- Prevalence of Dating Partner Violence and Suicidal Ideation Among Male and Female University Students Worldwide
- Physical Health and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Symptoms in Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence
- Perceived Changes in Health and Safety Following Participation in a Health Care-Based Domestic Violence Program
- Rural Mothers Experiencing the Stress of Intimate Partner Violence or Not: Their Newborn Health Concerns

The abstracts are available for free.

Abstracts:

[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=PublicationURL&\\_cdi=6605&\\_pubType=J&\\_acct=C00050221&\\_version=1&\\_urlVersion=0&\\_userid=10&md5=18262e101de92ee908074fecac17ee9b&jchunk=53#53](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=PublicationURL&_cdi=6605&_pubType=J&_acct=C00050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=18262e101de92ee908074fecac17ee9b&jchunk=53#53)

## ----- IV. INITIATIVES -----

### ONTARIO

#### **19. Neighbours, Friends and Families Campaign**

(also available in French)

*Neighbours, Friends and Families* is a public education campaign to raise awareness of the signs of woman abuse so that those close to an at-risk woman or an abusive man can help.

English: <http://www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca/eng/mainnew.php>

French: <http://www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca/fr/mainnew.php>

#### **20. Kanawayhitowin: Taking Care of Each Others Spirit**

Kanawayhitowin is an Aboriginal campaign to raise awareness about the signs of woman abuse in communities, so that people who are close to an at-risk woman or abusive man can provide support. This campaign has been adapted from the *Neighbours, Friends and Family* initiative in the province of Ontario to reflect a traditional and cultural approach to community healing and wellness.

[http://www.kanawayhitowin.ca/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www.kanawayhitowin.ca/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)

#### **21. Domestic Violence Action Plan**

(also available in French)

In December 2004, a 4-year Domestic Violence Action Plan was launched. The Government of Ontario is investing more than \$82 million for the next four years to support a variety of community services such as shelters, counselling services, and community and housing supports. The plan will also focus on: (1) enhancing community supports to better protect victims of violence; (2) public education, early intervention, and training strategies to help prevent domestic violence; (3) strengthening the justice system response; and (4) providing better access to French-Language services for the francophone community (Ontario Women's Directorate, 2008).

English:

<http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/resources/publications/docs/dvap.update.pdf>

French:

<http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/french/resources/publications/docs/dvap.update.pdf>

#### **22. Aboriginal Victims Support Grant Program**

(also available in French)

The Ontario Victim Services Secretariat (OVSS) is investing \$2 million towards improving services for Aboriginal victims of crime, through a grant program. The application period for 2008 is closed and successful applicants will be announced in spring 2009 (Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ontario Victim Services Secretariat, 2008).

English:

[http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/vw/aboriginal\\_grants/](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/vw/aboriginal_grants/)

French:

[http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/french/about/vw/aboriginal\\_grants/Default.asp](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/french/about/vw/aboriginal_grants/Default.asp)

### CANADA

#### **23. The Family Violence Initiative: Reducing Family Violence - A Comprehensive Federal Approach**

(also available in French)

The *Family Violence Initiative (FVI)* is coordinated by the Public Health Agency of Canada on behalf of the Federal Government and 15 partner departments. The FVI promotes community awareness of family violence and community involvement in responding to it, in attempt to reduce the occurrence of family violence. The Government of Canada provides \$7 million annually to fund the Family Violence Initiative. The Public Health Agency of Canada also manages the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (NCFV), under the Family Violence Initiative. The NCFV is a resource centre which provides comprehensive references, referrals, and information on family violence protection, prevention, and treatment.

English: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/initiative-eng.php>

French: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/initiative-fra.php>

Family Violence Initiative-*Family Violence Youth Site*: <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/fv-vf/fvy-vfj/index.html>

French: <http://www.justice.gc.ca/fra/pi/vf-fv/vfj-fvy/index.html>

Publications: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/publications-eng.php>

French: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/publications-fra.php>

## **24. 4th Annual National Victims of Crime Awareness Week: April 26 to May 2, 2009**

The purpose of *National Victims of Crime Awareness Week* is to raise awareness about victim issues, programs, services, and laws put in place to assist victims and families.

English: <http://www.victimswweek.gc.ca/>

French: <http://www.semainedesvictimes.gc.ca/acceil-home.html>

For a list of events, visit the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (NCFV) website at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/EB/eb-eng.php#events1>

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **25. The White Ribbon Campaign**

(also available in French)

Established in 1991, the *White Ribbon Campaign* was created by men who decided they wanted to speak out about violence against women. The white ribbon symbolizes a personal “pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls (The White Ribbon Campaign, 2008). The campaign is led by both men and women in over 55 countries.

English: [http://www.whiteribbon.ca/about\\_us/#1](http://www.whiteribbon.ca/about_us/#1)

French: <http://www.whiteribbon.ca/francais/>

### **26. Stop Violence against Women Campaign**

This campaign was launched by Amnesty International to break the silence surrounding violence against women. It aims is to stop the violence and support advocates of women’s human rights globally.

[http://www.amnesty.ca/campaigns/svaw\\_overview.php](http://www.amnesty.ca/campaigns/svaw_overview.php)

## **----- V. EVENTS -----**

### **27. 1st Annual Canadian Conference on the Prevention of Domestic Homicides**

June 14-16, 2009: London, ON

<http://www.crvawc.ca/documents/Nat%20DVDRC%20conference%20flyer.pdf>

## **28. Understanding Family Law on Relationship Breakdown: E-Learning for Working with Women Leaving Abusive Relationships**

October 21-November 25, 2009: Online

[http://www.springtideresources.org/events/news\\_show.cfm?id=55&show=all](http://www.springtideresources.org/events/news_show.cfm?id=55&show=all)

### **----- VI. RESOURCES -----**

#### **ONTARIO**

### **29. Getting Legal Help**

(also available in French)

Legal Aid Ontario provides legal representation to individuals with low-income and disadvantaged communities.

English: <http://www.legalaid.on.ca/en/locate/default.asp>

French: <http://www.legalaid.on.ca/fr/locate/default.asp>

For more information on Legal Aid:

<http://www.springtideresources.org/resources/show.cfm?id=201>

### **30. Ontario Women's Justice Network**

Ontario Women's Justice Network promotes an understanding of legal information pertaining to how the legal system is structured, how to seek help, and how different areas of the law can impact women, youth, and children who experience violence.

<http://www.owjn.org/>

### **31. Domestic Violence Court (DVC) Program**

(also available in French)

The Domestic Violence Court Program is a program that facilitates in the prosecution of domestic assault cases, early intervention, provides support for victims, and greater offenders accountability. The program involves a number of specialized individuals, such as the police, Crown Attorneys, Victim/Witness Assistance Program staff, probation services, Partner Assault Response program staff, and community agencies, who collectively work together to guarantee priority is given to the safety and needs of victims and their children.

English: <http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/vw/dvc.asp>

French: <http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/french/about/vw/dvc.asp>

### **32. Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)**

(also available in French)

This program offers information, assistance and support to victims and witnesses of crimes, to enhance their understanding and participation in the criminal court system. The most vulnerable victims and witnesses of violent crimes are given first priority for services in this program. Vulnerable victims include those of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, homicide, families of traffic fatality victims, and hate crimes. Services commence as soon as police have laid charges and carry on until the court case is finished. VWAP staff offer services such as crisis intervention, emotional support, case specific information, court preparation, needs assessment, and referrals to other community agencies. To locate a VWAP office near you, call the *Victim Support Line* toll-free at 1-888-579-2888 or 416-314-2447 in the Toronto area.

English: <http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/vw/vwap.asp>

French: <http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/french/about/vw/vwap.asp>

### **33. The Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System**

The Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System is a not-for-profit social service agency that assists children and families who are witnesses and victims of crime, involved in custody battles, participants of child protection proceedings, youth offenders, and more. The agency is well known globally for its “grounded approach” to understanding children who are exposed to domestic violence, supporting their mothers, and developing training resources for service deliverers. The website has a number of great resources for professionals, volunteers, and students.

<http://www.lfcc.on.ca/philm.htm>

Publications: <http://www.lfcc.on.ca/pubs.htm>

Research: <http://www.lfcc.on.ca/resserv.htm>

### **34. Children’s Aid Societies**

Children’s Aid Societies investigate reports or evidence of abuse or neglect of children under the age of 16 or in the society's care or supervision and, where necessary, take steps to protect the children; care for and supervise children who come under their care or supervision; counsel and support families for the protection of children or to prevent circumstances requiring the protection of children; and place children for adoption.

Locate a Children’s Aid Society: <http://www.oacas.org/childwelfare/locate.htm>

### **35. Children Learn What They Live**

This resource (Public Health Grey Bruce Health Unite, 2007) provides information on the effects of family violence on children.

<http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/FamilyViolence/EffectsOnChildren/Children%20Learn%20What%20They%20Live.pdf>

More on the effects of violence on children:

<http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/FamilyViolence/EffectsOnChildren/EffectsOnChildren.htm>

### **36. Springtide Resources**

Springtide Resources engages diverse communities in shared educational strategies designed to prevent violence against women and the effect it has on children. Resources and publications are available.

<http://www.springtideresources.org/>

### **37. Assaulted Women’s Helpline**

This toll-free crisis telephone service operates province-wide 24 hours and 7 days a week.

Phone 1-866-863-0511 or 416-863-0511

TTY is available by calling 1-866-863-7868.

### **38. Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse, “Plan for your safety” Creating a Safety Plan**

A safety plan booklet was developed to help women who are in an abusive relationship or situation, escape safely. The booklet was put together by women who have survived abuse and they offer advice to other women experiencing abuse. Funding to print and reproduce this booklet was provided by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

<http://www.pcawa.org/Files/English+Safety+Plan+April+2006+with+Logo.pdf>

## 39. Safety Planning for Women who are Abused

This resource, produced by the *Neighbours, Friends and Families* campaign (2006), provides safety planning information for women.

<http://www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca/eng/dlmaterials/EngSafetyPlanning.pdf>

## CANADA

### 40. Kids Help Phone

(also available in French)

This toll-free, national, and bilingual service provides phone/web counselling, referrals, and information for children and youth. Services are confidential and available 24 hours and 7 days a week.

English: <http://www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca/>

French: <http://www.jeunessejecoute.ca/>

Phone: 1-800-668-6868 or 416-586-5437

E-mail: [info@kidshelpphone.ca](mailto:info@kidshelpphone.ca)

### 41. Shelternet

(also available in French, Spanish, Polish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Farsi, and Punjabi)

Shelternet helps women, children, and teenagers find the nearest shelter. It also offers information on safety planning and includes sections designed for women, teenagers, children, and friends and family.

English: <http://www.shelternet.ca/en/>

French: <http://www.shelternet.ca/splashPage.htm>

Other languages: <http://www.shelternet.ca/splashPage.htm>

### 42. Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC)

This Canadian community-based organization focuses on helping women, youth, and children live free of violence. METRAC also develops strategies to end violence against women and build healthier communities for all.

<http://www.metrac.org/programs/safe.htm>

### 43. Warning Signs of Abuse - Are you in an Abusive Relationship?

(also available in French)

This website (Northwest Territories Health and Social Services, 2008) provides a list of questions to help determine whether an individual is being abused or in an abusive relationship.

English:

[http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/family\\_violence/information\\_for\\_victims/warning\\_signs\\_of\\_abuse.htm](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/family_violence/information_for_victims/warning_signs_of_abuse.htm)

French:

[http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/french/services/family\\_violence/information\\_for\\_victims/warning\\_signs\\_of\\_abuse.htm](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/french/services/family_violence/information_for_victims/warning_signs_of_abuse.htm)

### 44. Domestic Violence and Pregnancy

This website (Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, 2009) provides information on violence against women during pregnancy.

[http://www.preventioninstitute.sk.ca/home/Program\\_Areas/Maternal\\_Infant\\_Health/Prenatal\\_Health/Domestic\\_Violence\\_and\\_Pregnancy/](http://www.preventioninstitute.sk.ca/home/Program_Areas/Maternal_Infant_Health/Prenatal_Health/Domestic_Violence_and_Pregnancy/)

## INTERNATIONAL

### **45. Family Violence Prevention Battering in Intimate Relationships “*The Power and Control Wheel*”**

This website (Public Health Grey Bruce Health Unit, 2007) provides information about the *Power and Control Wheel* which was developed in Duluth, USA, by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project. The London Battered Women’s Advocacy Centre further enhanced it. The wheel describes 8 different types of abuse, along with examples, and illustrates how the perpetrator exerts power and control over their victim.

<http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/FamilyViolence/BatteringInRelationships.htm>

## ----- VII. FEATURED BEST START RESOURCES -----

### **46. You and Your Baby...**

(also available in multiple languages)

This resource (2008) was produced by the Perinatal Partnership Program of Eastern and Southeastern Ontario with the support of Best Start Resource Centre. These printer-ready handouts on abuse and pregnancy are available in English, French, Arabic, Punjabi, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Cree - N Dialect, and Severn Ojibwe.

English: <http://www.beststart.org/resources/anti-violence/index.html>

French: <http://www.meilleurdepart.org/resources/violence/index.html>

### **47. You and Your Baby Deserve to Be Safe: Brochure**

(also available in French)

This wallet sized fold-out brochure for women (2006) provides a self-assessment questionnaire and strategies (including contact information) for seeking and getting help.

English: <http://www.beststart.org/resources/anti-violence/index.html>

French: <http://www.meilleurdepart.org/resources/violence/index.html>

### **48. Abuse and Pregnancy: Handout, Camera Ready-Ads, Brochure, and Display**

(some available in French)

These resources about abuse and pregnancy are available in print and PDF. The display is available for loan and the camera-ready ads are available for use in newspapers, newsletters, etc. The wallet sized fold-out brochure for women includes a self-assessment questionnaire and strategies (including contact information) for seeking and getting help.

English: <http://www.beststart.org/resources/anti-violence/index.html>

French: <http://www.meilleurdepart.org/resources/violence/index.html>

### **49. Abuse and Pregnancy: Information and Strategies for the Prenatal Educator**

This resource was developed for prenatal educators as a resource that helps identify potential abuse situations and provides strategies and resources for supporting the woman through the

situation. Information is provided about risk factors for abuse in pregnancy, screening for woman abuse, disclosure, and legal issues.

<http://www.beststart.org/resources/anti-violence/index.html>