Annual

Crime Prevention Guide

Child Abuse Awareness

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2009 Crime Prevention Guide

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, welcome to the Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers' (SFPO) 1st Annual Crime Prevention Guide.

Founded in 1962, the SFPO continues to serve as the collective voice of over 1,000 Saskatchewan municipal police and civilian personnel. This year's inaugural guide tackles the issue of child abuse awareness and prevention. Commendably, all proceeds raised go directly to support important child safety programs such as Child Find Saskatchewan, pay for Annual Police Memorials, and help improve law enforcement in our province.

Our government recognizes the dedicated work of our municipal police agencies to reduce violent and other crimes to enhance the safety of our local communities. Healthy children and families are the foundation of a strong and vibrant Saskatchewan. This guide will be an important resource to help educate the public on this difficult subject.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the SFPO for their valuable work.

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Annual
Crime Prevention Guide
Child Abuse Awareness

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Premier 1
Message from the SFPO President 5
Publisher's Page 7
Sixth Annual Police and Peace Officers' Memorial 9
Saskatchewan Police & Peace Officers' Honour Roll 21
Saskatchewan Police College Recruit Training Classes 2009 25

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

Child Welfare office locations throughout the province 29
Regina Children's Justice Centre 31
Child Abuse: A fact sheet from the Department of Justice Canada 33
Family Violence Initiative: Performance Report for April 2004 to March 2008 43
The Criminal Law and Managing Children's Behaviour 57
Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 61
The Maltreatment of Adolescents in Canada 65
Abuse is Wrong 69
Canadian Red Cross RespectED programs and services 5
Get Help 81
Lessons from Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse 83
Sexual Abuse, What Happens When You Tell 91
Provincial Child Abuse Protocol 2006 97
Special Committee to Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children
Through the Sex Trade (Interim Report) 105
Second Hand Smoke Risks to Children 111
Where to find more information on Child Abuse 120

ADVERTISERS' INDEX 119

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Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers

Dear Sponsor:

It gives me great pleasure as President of the **Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers** to introduce this **Annual Crime Prevention Guide**, focusing on the topic of Child Abuse. This community publication would not be possible without the ongoing support from the business owners of Saskatchewan. Thank you so much for your support of our project.

What is Child Abuse? The term "child abuse" refers to the violence, mistreatment or neglect that a child may experience while in the care of someone they either trust or depend on, such as a parent, sibling, relative, caregiver or guardian. There are many different forms of abuse, and a child may be subject to more than one form.

An abuser may use a number of different tactics to gain access to a child, exert power and control over them, and prevent them from telling anyone about the abuse or seeking support. Abuse is a misuse of power and a violation of trust. Few people understand the tremendous impact that child abuse has on our communities. As you read through this publication, I hope you find the information helpful.

If you become aware of a child being abused, it is your obligation to contact your local Police Force, the Department of Social Services, or your local Crime Stoppers. We can stop Child Abuse!

Evan Bray
President
SK Federation of Police Officers

Among the objectives of our Federation are the following:

- to **raise the standards of police work** and to foster a true sense of obligation to the public;
- to maintain a just, impartial and **efficient public police force**;
- to stimulate interest in the **vital importance of police work** in the everyday **life of the community;**
- **to lobby** the government for **progressive changes in Criminal Justice Legislation** such as the **Youth Justice Act** and **Early Parole.**

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For more information about the SaskTel Pioneers (Chapter 59) visit their web site at www.sasktelpioneers.com.

From the Publisher

On behalf of **Fenety Marketing Services** and the **Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers**, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every contributor to our **2009 Telephone Appeal**, allowing us to publish this community publication. I would also like to congratulate the **Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers** on the publication of their **Annual Crime Prevention Guide.**

In selecting **Child Abuse Awareness** as the theme of this first publication, our goal is to educate the public and promote their role in the identification and reporting of abuse. This publication contains information on the many forms of child abuse in our society, and we're confident that the information contained in this publication will provide one more public resource to help the victims of this terrible crime.

Proceeds from this annual project will help the **Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers** support important community child safety programs, such as **Child Find Saskatchewan, Annual Police Memorial Services**, and help improve law enforcement in Saskatchewan.

We welcome your comments or suggestions, and we look forward to speaking with you again this year during our Annual Telephone Appeal.

Respectfully,

Mark T. Fenety
President
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Sixth Annual — Saskatchewan

Police & Peace Officers' Memorial

Regina, Saskatchewan
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History of the National Memorial Service

The murder of Ottawa rookie Cst. David Kirkwood, on July 11, 1977, launched a response that, today, has become the nationally recognized ceremony honouring police and peace officers killed in the line of duty. Following Kirkwood's senseless killing, Ottawa police officers vowed to keep his memory alive and to ensure that the magnitude of his sacrifice, and that of others like him, would never be forgotten by Canadians.

Accordingly, on Sunday, September 24, 1978, a special service and tribute was held. The site selected was Parliament Hill, the place where laws are made that directly impact on police officer safety and, ultimately, the quality of life for us all. Following that first ceremony, a number of features have become tradition and, at the same time, some modifications to the event have occurred as well.

The ceremony was expanded to honour other police officers murdered in the line of duty and this criterion of inclusion was itself modified years later to include all officers killed in the line of duty. This current criterion has been applied retroactively, and names of officers killed in the line of duty, from years gone by, are now being added to the Memorial stone. The original ceremonies were limited to police and correctional officers killed but that criterion was expanded, in 1995, to include all peace officers so that all areas of law enforcement are now included in one single ceremony.

Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day

On September 24, 1998, the Government of Canada officially proclaimed the last Sunday of September of every year as Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day. In announcing the commemorative day on September 27, 1998, the Solicitor general of Canada stated that "A formal, national Memorial Day gives Canadians an opportunity each year to formally express appreciation for the dedication of police and peace officers, who make the ultimate, tragic sacrifice to keep communities safe."

On January 17, 2003 a nation wide half-masting was included in the new half-masting rules. The Flag will be half-masted on all federal buildings and establishments in Canada, including the Peace Tower, from sunrise to sunset on Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day.

The Addition of the Memorial Book, the Pavilion and the Memorial Stones

During the 1984 service in Ottawa, a Memorial book of remembrance for police and correctional officers killed, while on duty, was introduced by the Office of the Solicitor General and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP).

Continued on page 11...

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Continued from page 9

On March 22, 1994, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien joined the more than 700 police officers and relatives of slain officers at a site behind the Parliament buildings. The Canadian Police Association (CPA) and the CACP dedicated the new Canadian Police Memorial Pavilion and the granite stone at the base of the pavilion that displays the names of officers killed while on duty.

When the granite stone was unveiled in 1994, it displayed the names of 227 police officers killed in the line of duty since 1879. Two other stones were also erected; one for peace officers who died in the line of duty and another explaining the pavilion's history. In 1995, the memorial honour roll was expanded to include the names of slain officers from other Canadian law enforcement agencies, including, Ministry of Natural Resources, Customs and Excise, Fisheries and Oceans, and Conservation.

As the turn of the millennium approached, the granite stones and memorial book presented several challenges. In 1999, the CPA, the CACP and the CPOMA worked collaboratively with officials from Public Works and Government Services Canada, to design a new honour roll to enhance the Memorial Pavilion site, compliment the design features of Parliament Hill, and provide sufficient space to recognize our heroes for another 100 years.

The parties agreed upon a glass panel monument, to be erected along the perimeter wall adjacent to the Memorial Pavilion. The new monument enhances the existing Memorial Pavilion, provides a lasting tribute to our heroes, and ensures that future generations will be provided with a striking reminder of the sacrifices of our fallen heroes. The new honour roll was unveiled in conjunction with the 2000 Memorial Service, as part of Parliament's millennium celebration, replacing the granite stones and retiring the Memorial Book of Remembrance.

Two-gun salute

The 1978 ceremony opened with a two-gun salute, fired by members of the 30th Field Regiment of the RCA. This symbolized a long-standing association between the Ottawa Police Service and the 30th Field Regiment, also known as the Bytown Gunners. Both were founded in 1855 and have a long history of mutual support in difficult times; from civil unrest, in the early days of Canada's history, to royal visits in later years. After the salute, one brass shell case was saved and mounted as a commemorative piece with the inscription: "To fallen comrades, Parliament Hill, September 24, 1978", along with the badges of the Ottawa Police and Bytown Gunners mounted above and below the inscription. The piece was presented to the Ottawa Police Service on July 7, 1979.

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We appreciate your commitment to educate our communities about the crime of child abuse.

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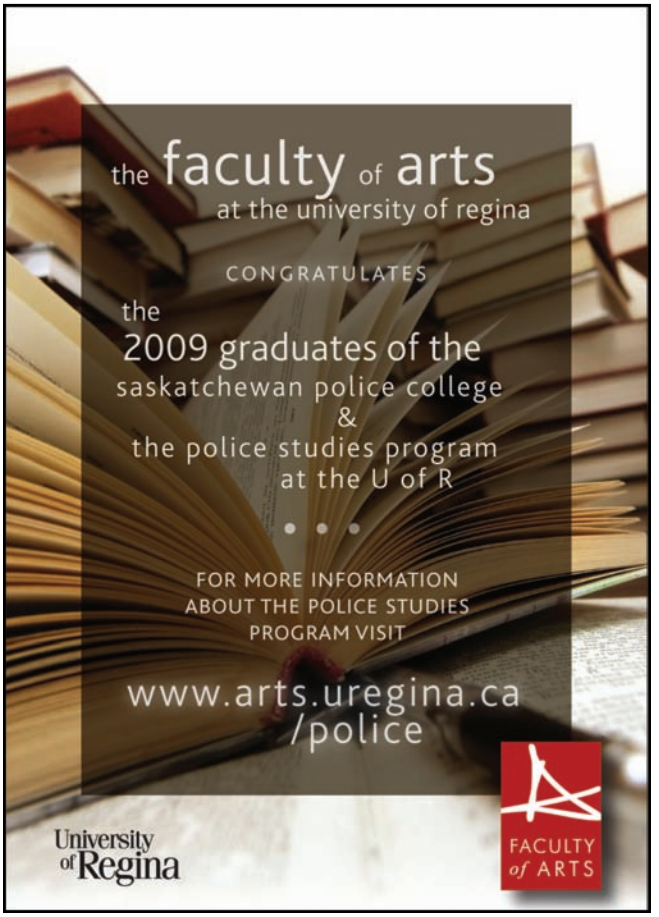

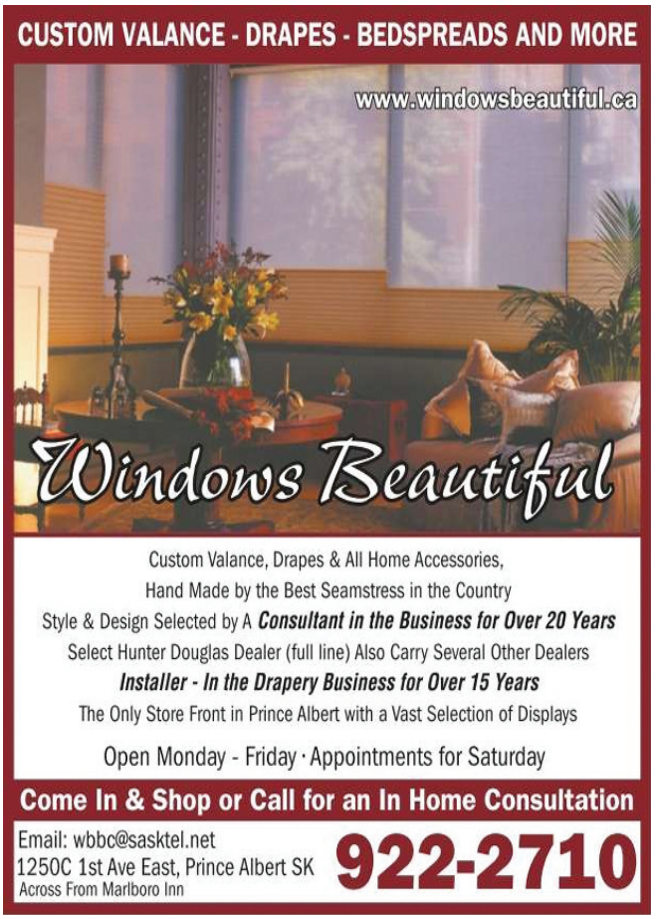

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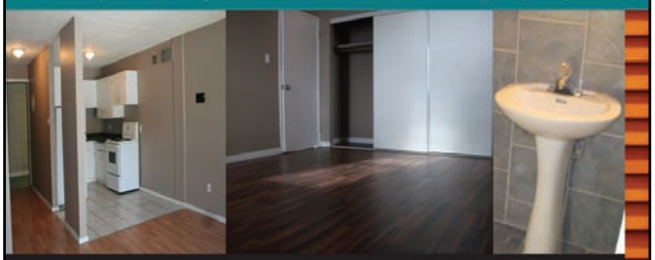

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Saskatchewan Police Memorial Service

Sunday, September 27, 2009

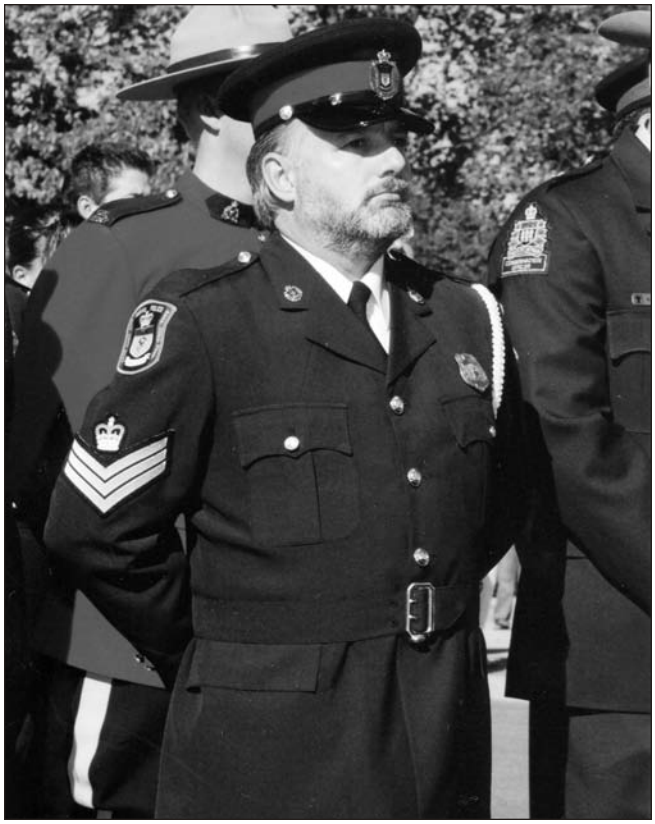
Dedicated to the memory of all those Police and Peace Officers killed in the performance of their duties

Saskatchewan Police Memorial Service

Sunday, September 27, 2009

Dedicated to the memory of all those Police and Peace Officers killed in the performance of their duties

President of Saskatchewan Federation of Police, Sgt. Evan Bray



Saskatchewan Police Memorial Service

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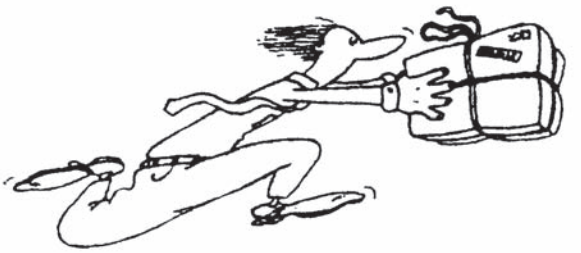

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Saskatchewan Police & Peace Officers' Honour Roll

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June 19, 1877 .....Sub. Cst. George Mahoney, NWMP
March 26, 1885 .....Cst. Thomas James Gibson, NWMP
March 27, 1885 .....Cst. George Knox Garrett, NWMP
March 27, 1885 .....Cst. George Pearce Arnold, NWMP
April 15, 1885 .....Cst. David Latimer Cowan, NWMP
May 2, 1885 .....Cpl. Ralph Bateman Sleigh, NWMP
May 3, 1885 .....Cst. Patrick Burke, NWMP
May 3, 1885 .....Cpl. William Hay Talbot Lowry, NWMP
May 14, 1885 .....Cst. Frank Orlando Elliott, NWMP
June 17, 1889 .....Cst. James Herron, NWMP
August 10, 1890 .....Sgt. Albert Ernest Garland Montgomery, NWMP
October 29, 1895 .....Sgt. Colin Campbell Colebrook, NWMP
April 27, 1896 .....Cst. Oscar Alexander Kern, NWMP
May 28, 1897 .....Cst. John Randolph Kerr, NWMP
May 29, 1897 .....Cpl. Charles Horne Sterling Hockin, NWMP
June 8, 1906 .....Cst. Thomas Robert Jackson, RNWMP
August 19, 1925 .....Penitentiary Guard Stanley Herbert Blythe,
Saskatchewan Penitentiary, Prince Albert
July 5, 1932 .....Cpl. Leonard Victor Ralls, RCMP
May 8, 1933 .....Insp. Lorne James Sampson, RCMP
August 6, 1933 .....Cst. George A. Lenhard, Regina Police
July 1, 1935 .....Det. Charles Miller, Regina Police
August 26, 1939 .....Cst. Willis Edward Rhodeniser, RCMP
October 11, 1939 .....Cst. Norman Alfred Gleadow, RCMP
March 16, 1940 .....Sgt. Arthur Julian Barker, RCMP
May 23, 1940 .....Cst. Harry G. Rapeer, RCMP
October 20, 1943 .....Surgeon Maurice Powers, RCMP
October 6, 1955 .....Cst. Charles William Reay, RCMP
December 12, 1955 .....Insp. David James McCombe, RCMP
August 5, 1956 .....Cst. Matthew Kwasnica, Prince Albert Police
August 20, 1959 .....Conversation Officer Harold B. Thompson,
Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources
September 17, 1961 .....Cst. Wayne Sinclair, RCMP
February 2, 1965 .....Cst. David Brian Robinson, RCMP

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Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources
April 20, 1966 . . . . . .Cst. Philip John Francis Tidman, RCMP
October 20, 1966 . . . . . .Cst. Roger R. Beausoleil,
Town Police, Willow Bunch, SK
October 9, 1970 . . . . . .Sgt. Robert James Schrader, RCMP
October 9, 1970 . . . . . .Cst. Douglas Bernard Anson, RCMP
May 5, 1972 . . . . . .Cst. Leslie E. Gardner, Moose Jaw Police
April 25, 1978 . . . . . .Cst. T. Brian King, RCMP, Saskatoon
May 24, 1980 . . . . . .Cst. Roy John William Karwaski, RCMP
August 11, 1981 . . . . . .Cpl. Ole R. Larsen, RCMP
October 16, 1982 . . . . . .Cst. Douglas A.M. Butler, RCMP
August 31, 1983 . . . . . .Cst. Richard Allan Bourgoin, RCMP
October 27, 1983 . . . . . .Cst. Daniel Lincoln Keough, RCMP
January 8, 1986 . . . . . .S/Cst. W.P. Boskill, RCMP
January 8, 1986 . . . . . .S/Cst. J.E Wilson, RCMP
March 6, 1987 . . . . . .Corrections Officer Alvin A. Frank,
Ministry of Solicitor General and Corrections
March 15, 1989 . . . . . .Cst. D.S. Beyak, RCMP
August 17, 1990 . . . . . .Conservation Officer Murray L. Doell,
Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources
January 14, 1991 . . . . . .Conservation Officer Lee Murray,
Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources
July 26, 1991 . . . . . .Conservation Officer Arthur T. Haugen,
Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources
February 17, 1996 . . . . . .Lynn Sharber,
Saskatchewan Department of Social Services
January 24, 1997 . . . . . .Conservation Officer Breton Thomas,
Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management
January 24, 1997 . . . . . .Conservation Officer Kevin R. Misfeldt,
Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management
May 7, 1999 . . . . . .Cst. J.E.J.G. Daniel Bourdon, RCMP
July 15, 2006 . . . . . .Cst. Robin Cameron, RCMP
July 16, 2006 . . . . . .Cst. Marc Bourdages, RCMP

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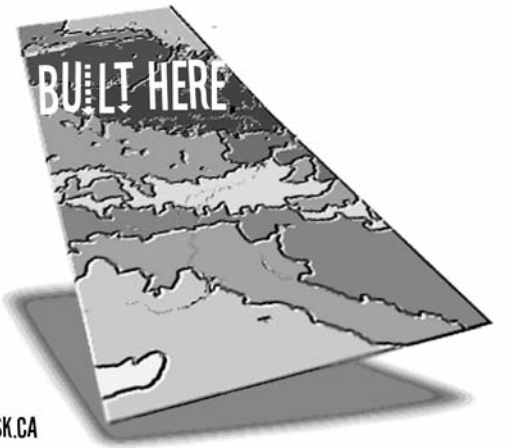

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child abuse awareness

Anyone who has a reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected has a legal duty to report it. You are not expected to determine if a child is being abused or neglected, a trained social worker will make that determination. Members of the public are simply obligated by the law to report suspected abuse or neglect. If you do not report a suspicion of abuse or neglect, you could be fined up to $25,000, or get a jail term of up to 24 months, or get both a fine and a jail term.

You can report information to:

- any Social Services office;
- a community crisis centre or unit (check the inside cover of your phone book);
- a police officer; or
- a First Nations Child and Family Service Agency.

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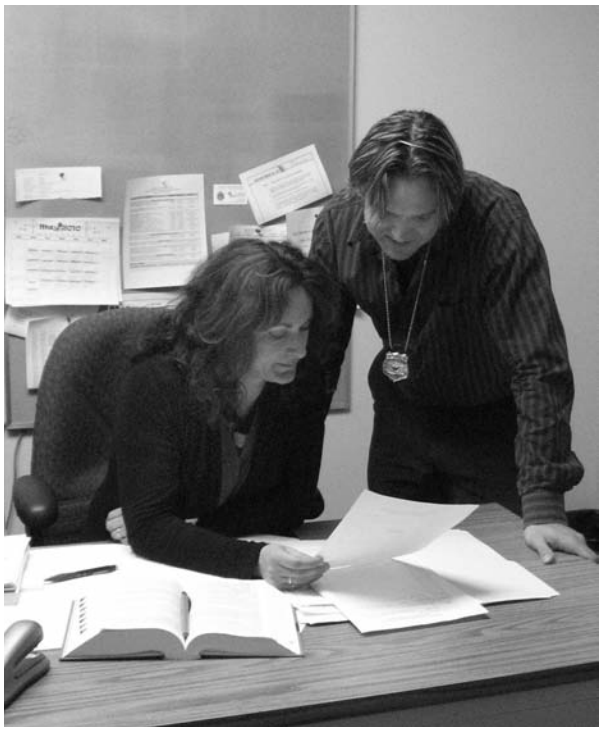
The Regina Children's Justice Centre (RCJC) is an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to investigating child abuse that is unique in Canada. Partnerships include Saskatchewan Justice, Department of Social Services, Regina Health District and the Regina Police Service.

The initial concept originated because a need was identified to increase the level of cooperation between agencies responsible for the safety of children. The RCJC is located at a child-friendly location, which includes specially designed interview rooms, a playroom and family waiting area. RCJC has its own unique method of child interviewing, resulting in an increase in the number and quality of child disclosures and the reduction of court appearances by the victim.

Exceptional people staff the Regina Children's Justice Centre. They have put aside the agendas of their respective disciplines in the interest of compassion toward the most vulnerable members of our society, our children.



It is the law to report any suspected child abuse.
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Family Violence Initiative

Child Abuse:

A fact sheet from the Department of Justice Canada

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

The term "child abuse" refers to the violence, mistreatment or neglect that a child or adolescent may experience while in the care of someone they either trust or depend on, such as a parent, sibling, other relative, caregiver or guardian. Abuse may take place anywhere and may occur, for example, within the child's home or that of someone known to the child.

There are many different forms of abuse and a child may be subjected to more than one form:

Physical abuse may consist of just one incident or it may happen repeatedly. It involves deliberately using force against a child in such a way that the child is either injured or is at risk of being injured. Physical abuse includes beating, hitting, shaking, pushing, choking, biting, burning, kicking or assaulting a child with a weapon. It also includes holding a child under water, or any other dangerous or harmful use of force or restraint. Female genital mutilation is another form of physical abuse.

Sexual abuse and exploitation involves using a child for sexual purposes. Examples of child sexual abuse include fondling, inviting a child to touch or be touched sexually, intercourse, rape, incest, sodomy, exhibitionism, or involving a child in prostitution or pornography.

Neglect is often chronic, and it usually involves repeated incidents. It involves failing to provide what a child needs for his or her physical, psychological or emotional development and well being. For example, neglect includes failing to provide a child with food, clothing, shelter, cleanliness, medical care or protection from harm. Emotional neglect includes failing to provide a child with love, safety, and a sense of worth.

Emotional abuse involves harming a child's sense of self. It includes acts (or omissions) that result in, or place a child at risk of, serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional or mental health problems. For example, emotional abuse may include verbal threats, social isolation, intimidation, exploitation, or routinely making unreasonable demands. It also includes terrorizing a child, or exposing them to family violence.

An abuser may use a number of different tactics to gain access to a child, exert power and control over them, and prevent them from telling anyone about the abuse or seeking support. A child who is being abused is usually in a position of dependence on the person who is abusing them. Abuse is a misuse of power and a violation of trust. The abuse may happen once or it may occur in a repeated and escalating pattern over a period of months or years. The abuse may change form over time.

HOW WIDESPREAD IS CHILD ABUSE IN CANADA?

It has been difficult to obtain a complete picture of child abuse in Canada because it often remains hidden. Most provincial and territorial child welfare laws require those (including professionals and members of the public) who suspect that a child is being maltreated to make a report to the appropriate child welfare authority. Yet many cases of child abuse remain undisclosed, either because a child does not, or cannot, tell anyone what has happened to them, or because no one reports the abuse to the authorities.

A child who is being abused may endure the abuse for a long time before telling anyone what is happening. Some victims never tell anyone about what they have experienced.

There are many reasons why abuse may remain hidden. For example, an abuser may manipulate, bribe, coerce or threaten a child (or someone they love) to prevent them from telling anyone about the abuse. Depending on their age and stage of development, a child may not be able to communicate what has happened to them, or they may fear they will not be believed. They may be convinced that the abuse is their fault and, if they tell anyone about it, they will be punished. They may fear that they or the abuser will be removed from the home, or suffer other consequences. They may feel ashamed and want to keep the abuse (and related family problems) secret to avoid being stigmatized or have their sexual identity questioned.

A child who is being abused is usually in a position of dependence on the abuser. The power imbalance between the child and the abuser often increases the burden of disclosure. Children who are sexually abused, for example, may not tell anyone for a long time, or ever. Many children who experienced abuse while living in special needs institutions, child welfare facilities, youth detention facilities, and residential schools for Aboriginal children are only now, as adults, reporting the abuse.

Individuals who witness or suspect that a child is being abused may not report it because they:

- want to avoid the demands of becoming "involved"
- have personal views which condone the use of physical punishment
- believe that the abuse is not "serious," especially if the child does not have visible or severe injuries
- believe that reporting the abuse to the authorities is not in the child's best interest
- believe that reporting may not solve the problem because, for example, there may be a lack of appropriate services to help the child

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...Family Violence Initiative continued

Family Violence Initiative

Child Abuse:
A fact sheet from the Department of Justice Canada

- lack knowledge about the signs and symptoms of abuse
- not understand their responsibility to report abuse
- not know that they can report to child welfare agencies, provincial or territorial social services departments or police departments, or
- not know that a report can be made anonymously, and that there are no legal consequences, unless the report is false and is made maliciously.

Although many cases of abuse are still not reported to either police or child welfare authorities, data from police reports and child welfare authorities is still the most important source of information about child abuse. A recent study, the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS) estimated the extent of child abuse in Canada based on data from child welfare authorities. The CIS is an important milestone in providing a national picture of child abuse. This study collected information about more than 7,000 child welfare investigations conducted across the country during a three-month period in 1998. Based on this data, the CIS estimated that there were 135,573 child maltreatment investigations in Canada in 1998 - a rate of almost 22 investigations for every 1000 children in Canada. Child welfare workers were able to confirm that the abuse had occurred in almost half (45%) of all cases.

The key findings of the CIS include:

Physical abuse: In 1998, about one third (31%) of investigations involved physical abuse as the primary reason for the investigation. Physical abuse was confirmed in about one third (34 %) of these investigations, a rate of 2.25 cases of confirmed physical abuse for every 1,000 children in Canada.

Sexual abuse: One in ten (10%) investigations in 1998 involved sexual abuse as the primary reason for the investigation. Sexual abuse was confirmed in more than one third (38%) of these cases, a rate of 0.86 cases per 1,000 children.

Neglect: Neglect was the primary reason for investigation in 40% of all cases in 1998. Neglect was confirmed in 43% of these cases, a rate of 3.66 cases per 1,000 children.

Emotional maltreatment: In 1998, 19% of all investigations involved emotional maltreatment as the primary reason for the investigation. Emotional maltreatment was confirmed in more than half (54%) of these cases, a rate of 2.20 cases per 1,000 children.

In addition to the CIS findings, the 1999 General Social Survey on Victimization (GSS) provides additional information on the extent to which children are exposed to family violence. The GSS found children in approximately half a million households had either heard or witnessed a parent being assaulted during the five years prior to the survey.

WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO CHILD ABUSE?

There is no single, definitive cause of child abuse, and any child - regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, cultural identity, socioeconomic status, spirituality, sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities or personality - may be vulnerable to being abused. Child abuse is a complex problem and there are many different contributing factors (individual, familial, social). Many experts believe that child abuse is linked to inequalities among people in our society and the power imbalance between adults and children. A child is usually in a position of dependence on his or her abuser, and has little or no power compared to the abuser.

There is increasing understanding that a child's vulnerability to abuse may be increased by factors such as dislocation, colonization, racism, sexism, homophobia, poverty and social isolation. For example, in the past, many children sent to institutions experienced abuse. Most of these children were from marginalized groups in our society including, among others, children with disabilities, children from racial and ethnic minorities, Aboriginal children and children living in poverty.

There are also factors that may increase a child's vulnerability to being abused - or compound the effects of abuse. For example, a child's caregivers may experience barriers that prevent them from acquiring the necessary skills, resources and supports to prevent abuse, or they may lack access to the services and supports they need to address it.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD ABUSE?

Child abuse has devastating consequences for victims. Depending on its form(s), duration and severity, abuse may affect every aspect of a child's life; it may have consequences that are psychological, physical, behavioural, academic, sexual, interpersonal, self-perceptual or spiritual. The effects of abuse may appear right away, or surface only in adolescence or adulthood. Further, the effects may differ according to the nature of the response to the abuse, and whether the abuse was disclosed or reported. In some cases, the consequences are fatal.

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...Family Violence Initiative continued

Family Violence Initiative

Child Abuse:
A fact sheet from the Department of Justice Canada

Girls and boys are affected differently by abuse. Compared to boys, girls are more likely to internalize their response to violence, and experience, for example, suicidal ideation, eating disorders, low self-esteem and psychological disorders. Boys are more likely to externalize their response to violence, displaying, for example, increased aggression, delinquency and spousal abuse. Boys who have been exposed to violence in their homes are more likely to be violent in their adolescent and adult relationships than boys not exposed to violence.

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO CHILD ABUSE

In Canada, child welfare laws require that all cases of suspected child abuse must be investigated to determine if a child is in need of protection. If a child is determined to be in need of protection, the child welfare authorities may respond by, for example, providing counseling and support for the family, removing the child (temporarily or permanently) from the home, or removing the abuser(s) from the home. Criminal sanctions may also apply in cases of sexual or physical abuse.

Since the 1960s, significant steps have been taken to address child abuse in Canada including, for example:

- the introduction of mandatory reporting laws
- the creation of child abuse registries
- changes to the Criminal Code and the Canada Evidence Act (see Reforming the law and enhancing its implementation);
- the extension of time limits for laying charges in child sexual abuse cases, and
- the establishment of child protection agencies run by First Nations.

Further, since the landmark reports by Badgley (1984) and Rogers (1990), legislation to address child sexual abuse has been created and efforts to address the sexual exploitation of children are ongoing. Following the 1996 report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the federal government acknowledged its role in the occurrence of physical and sexual abuse in residential schools, and implemented a community-based healing strategy for Aboriginal communities (Gathering Strength).

Given the extent of child abuse in Canada - as well as the complexity of this issue and its enormous impact - effectively preventing, identifying and responding to child abuse is an enormous but essential task. Addressing this issue requires the ongoing commitment and collaboration of community members, practitioners, and policy makers across Canada. Community supports and services for victims and their families are essential.

The Department of Justice Canada and its partners - including non-governmental organizations, provincial and territorial governments and the private sector - are actively involved in addressing child abuse issues through legal reform, public and professional education, research and support for programs and services. Some of this work is linked to the Department's participation in the federal government's current Family Violence Initiative which focuses on violence against women and children that occurs in the home, while other areas of activity are linked to other initiatives including, for example, the National Children's Agenda, the Aboriginal Justice Strategy, and the National Strategy on Crime Prevention and Community Safety.

REFORMING THE LAW AND ENHANCING ITS IMPLEMENTATION

In Canada, child abuse and exploitation are prohibited by the Criminal Code. For example, offenders may be charged under the Criminal Code for assaulting children. At the provincial/ territorial level, child protection legislation permits intervention to ensure children's safety and welfare.

In recent years, the Criminal Code has been amended to create new criminal offences relating to child sexual assault, to specifically include female genital mutilation in the aggravated assault provision, and to amend the provisions on child sex tourism. Currently, Bill C-15 proposes legislation to protect children from sexual exploitation by criminalizing a number of specific actions including luring children on the Internet; transmitting, making available, or exporting child pornography on the Internet; or intentionally accessing child pornography on the Internet. Sentencing provisions would also be strengthened. Bill C-15 also proposes measures to make it easier to prosecute people involved in child sex tourism.

Federal law also seeks to protect child witnesses. For example, recent amendments to the Canada Evidence Act, whichdefine the forms of evidence that may be admitted in court, allow children, depending on their age and the type of offence involved, to be accompanied by a support person when they testify in court. Further, children can no longer be cross-examined by an accused; they may be allowed to provide testimony outside the courtroom or behind screens; and a videotape may be admitted as evidence, in lieu of a child's in-person testimony.

As part of the Children as Victims Project, the Department of Justice Canada is conducting a comprehensive review and consultation with its provincial/territorial partners and the public to determine the need for further reforms to

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...Family Violence Initiative continued

Family Violence Initiative

Child Abuse:
A fact sheet from the Department of Justice Canada

criminal law and policy, particularly with respect to specific offences against children, children's testimony, and sentencing. The Project is exploring:

- adding new child-specific offences to the Criminal Code. Child specific offences under review include: criminal physical abuse of a child, criminal neglect of a child, criminal emotional abuse of a child, child homicide, and failing to report suspected crimes against children.
- ensuring that the Criminal Code provisions concerning age of consent are appropriate. The areas under review include raising the general age of consent to sexual activity, and a possible amendment to ensure that a child victim's apparent consent cannot be used as a defence.
- ensuring that the Criminal Code contains sentencing provisions to better protect children. Possible modifications currently under review include provisions to: specifically emphasize the importance of denunciation and deterrence of crimes against children; provide the courts with additional tools to require longer-term supervision and mandate the availability of treatment for offenders who pose a continuing danger of re-offending against children; recognize the frequency and seriousness of child abuse in the home and at the hands of parents and caretakers; encourage the courts, when sentencing offenders in these cases, to place less emphasis on an offender's previous good character, since it is not unusual for such offenders to lack a prior criminal record; and require the courts to emphasize the emotional and psychological harms caused to children in assessing the gravity of the offences and the conduct involved.
- improving the experience of child witnesses and facilitating their testimony in criminal proceedings. Potential changes under review include: eliminating the required competency hearing for child witnesses; making the use of testimony outside the courtroom or behind screens more widely available; increasing the use of videotaped evidence; changes to the use of hearsay statements; ensuring that delays in the court process do not jeopardize the availability of support for child witnesses; ensuring that supports are available regardless of the type of offence; and ensuring that children are not questioned in ways that are inappropriate to their age and development during cross-examination.

Some of the Department's other areas of activity which impact on the issue of child abuse include:

- The Supreme Court of Canada has recently upheld the Criminal Code of Canada's possession of child pornography provision.
- A Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Prostitution has been addressing the issue of youth involvement in prostitution through research and consultations in most jurisdictions. The Working Group's report on legislation, policy and practices concerning prostitution-related activities was released in December 1998.
- The Department is actively involved in international efforts to prevent trafficking in children and child sexual exploitation.
- The family law system and the federal Divorce Act are also important tools for addressing the issue of child abuse. The Department is consulting with Canadians to determine how the legal system can improve its response to family violence when parents are separating or divorcing, and what changes (if any) should be made to the federal Divorce Act to promote

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...Family Violence Initiative continued

Family Violence Initiative

Child Abuse:
A fact sheet from the Department of Justice Canada

child-centred decision-making in situations of violence to ensure the safety of children and others.

OTHER STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO CHILD ABUSE

In addition to reforming the law and enhancing its implementation, the Department of Justice Canada is involved in many other strategies to prevent and respond to child abuse.

Education

Education involves providing children with knowledge about their rights, and teaching them the skills to identify abuse, ask for help, and avoid being re-victimized. Further, parents and caregivers need information and support to help them care for children in a positive and nurturing manner. The Department supports public legal education programs across Canada that educate the public about family violence, including the prevention, identification and reporting of child abuse.

Professional development and resources

Many different groups of practitioners may have contact with children who are abused. Enhancing the awareness and skills of judges, Crown prosecutors, defence lawyers, police, health care workers, social workers, psychologists, and teachers about child abuse enables effective intervention. The Department works with its partners to support specialized training for justice system and law enforcement personnel in order to build a coordinated multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary response with other systems.

Research, data collection and information sharing

The Department is involved in a number of national-level research and data collection activities related to child abuse that will help to:

- increase knowledge about child abuse and its impacts throughout different stages of life
- improve information exchange between government agencies
- increase the effectiveness of responses to child abuse, and
- enhance services and supports for children.

Support for program and service delivery

Support and intervention for children and families who have experienced abuse, or who are at risk, are essential. Through project funding the Department of Justice Canada supports pilot projects to develop, test and assess models, strategies and tools to improve the criminal justice system's response to child abuse.

Through the National Strategy on Crime Prevention and Community Safety, the Department supports community-based prevention and intervention programs that address risk factors for child abuse.

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FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Family Violence Initiative (FVI) is a horizontal initiative led by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The Family Violence Initiative Performance Report for April 2004 to March 2008, which has been prepared on behalf of all FVI member departments, highlights the key results that have been reached in this reporting period.

The FVI is a long-term initiative to address a complex and deeply rooted problem. Its continuing mandate is to enhance awareness of family violence issues; build the knowledge base that will help to address these issues; and contribute to a strengthened ability of the justice, housing and health systems and communities across Canada to prevent and respond to family violence.

Fifteen federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations participate in the FVI. The Public Health Agency of Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Department of Justice Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Statistics Canada, and Status of Women Canada share an ongoing annual allocation of $7 million. This allocation serves to ensure the implementation of core activities deemed essential to the Initiative's sustainability, including the operation of the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, a valuable source of information on family violence for all Canadians. These seven members, along with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Correctional Service of Canada, Department of National Defence, Health Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Public Safety Canada, and Service Canada, allocate additional resources for FVI-related activities from their regular budgets.

Family violence takes many forms and may include acts of physical or sexual assault (as defined by the Criminal Code of Canada) as well as other forms of physical and sexual abuse and exploitation, financial exploitation, neglect, emotional abuse and spiritual abuse. Family violence undermines the health, safety, and quality of life and future prospects of many Canadians.

Although police-reported incidents of spousal violence declined steadily between 1998 and 2006, there were still over 38,000 incidents of spousal violence reported across Canada, representing approximately 15 percent of all police-reported violent incidents in 2006. From 1977 to 2006, the rate of spousal homicide for both men and women has also steadily declined, following a pattern for homicide overall. Still, in 2006, police-reported data indicate that 56 women and 22 men were killed by their spouses. The rates of violence against children have fluctuated over time; yet in 2006, according to police-reported data, a total of 12,198 children and youth were victims of family-related (physical and sexual) assaults.

According to police-reported data, a total of 12,198 children and youth were victims of family-related (physical and sexual) assaults.

While police-reported data have consistently shown that older adults (65 years of age and older) are the least likely of all age groups to be victims of violent crime, studies have shown that they are particularly vulnerable to various forms of abuse, such as emotional or psychological abuse, neglect or maltreatment, material exploitation or financial abuse, as well as physical assault and sexual assault.

KEY PERFORMANCE RESULTS FROM APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2008

From April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2008, the FVI made important gains in enhancing its collective capacity to horizontally manage and advance its work. In 2007, an umbrella Results-based Management and Accountability Framework (RMAF) was implemented. New tools, such as the FVI extranet website and the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence E-Bulletin (a bi-monthly electronic newsletter) have enhanced communication among and across family violence stakeholders (federally and Canada-wide).

The FVI worked effectively with all orders of government and stakeholders, fostering a supportive climate for dialogue and information sharing on policy and program initiatives to explore and address issues such as the health and social impacts of violence on victims, their families and communities; the interplay between homelessness and family violence; ways to strengthen systems and community services and supports to prevent and address family violence; and issues of specific concern to Aboriginal populations and other populations living in situations of risk or disadvantage.

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Initiative continued

FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2008

The Government of Canada – through the work of FVI member departments – made important contributions to international-level work on family violence, including the work of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Violence Prevention Alliance, the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women, the implementation and monitoring of UN conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Children, and the ongoing work of the UN Human Rights Committee. Statistics Canada contributed knowledge and expertise to other countries on measuring family violence. Correctional Service of Canada shared its expertise and knowledge on evidence-informed prevention and treatment programs.

The FVI worked extensively with family violence stakeholders and external partners to both broaden and deepen the knowledge base about family violence and translate knowledge into practice. Much of the knowledge generated, as well as practical tools and resources to address family violence, is widely accessed by Canadians through the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, Canada's key resource for family violence information.

From April 2004 to March 2008, measures to strengthen the justice system to address family violence issues were also undertaken. For example, the Criminal Code of Canada and the Canada Evidence Act were amended to further strengthen child pornography provisions (including increasing penalties and introducing mandatory minimum sentences for specific sexual offences against children); to create new offences related to the sexual exploitation of youth (aged 14-18) and voyeurism; to increase protection of victims of spousal violence by measures to facilitate the criminal law enforcement of breaches of civil restraining orders; and included enabling measures to facilitate testimony of child victims and witnesses. The RCMP developed new resources for front-line police officers and provided officer training on investigating and responding to relationship violence incidents and issues. Front-line officers continued to work with communities they police to address local family violence issues. The Department of Justice Canada contributed to greater public legal education of family violence issues, through its enhanced family violence website and the addition of a specialized site devoted to youth that provides age appropriate information on defining family violence, understanding the legal context, and where to get help if a child believes she or he is being abused.

The Department of Justice Canada contributed to greater public legal education of family violence issues, through its enhanced family violence website and the addition of a specialized site devoted to youth that provides age appropriate information on defining family violence, understanding the legal context, and where to get help if a child believes she or he is being abused.

With the collaboration of federal, provincial and territorial partners, the shelter system was also enhanced during this period. For example, the Department of Justice Canada contributed to the development of a mobile training for front-line shelter workers in Inuit communities. According to the results of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)'s evaluation of its Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP), SEP contributed to increasing the capacity of the shelter system by adding new family violence shelters as well as new beds/units on and off reserve. A contribution has also been made to bring shelters up to standards of health and safety, to enhance security, accessibility for persons with disabilities and play areas for children, and to support shelters to carry out needed repairs. The SEP funding covered 40 percent of all shelter repairs in the evaluation period and was highly incremental. In First Nations communities where shelters are operating, the evaluation also reported that fewer women had to leave their communities to seek protection and that shelters also contributed to more community engagement in prevention activities.

Providing support for community-based violence prevention projects through various funding instruments of FVI partners (namely the Department of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women Canada, the Department of Justice Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the National Crime Prevention Centre) remains a key strategy to raise public awareness, engage community members and strengthen local partnerships, knowledge, skills, linkages and networks to address family violence issues.

While the federal FVI investment is making a meaningful contribution to addressing family violence issues, it is clear that more remains to be done. Under the leadership of PHAC, horizontal management of the FVI will continue to ensure a strategic focus and guard against overlap and duplication of effort. FVI partners will continue to focus on addressing the issues and often unique circumstances of specific sub-populations affected by violence at various ages and life stages, including women, children, young people, older adults, Aboriginal populations, and others living in conditions of risk or disadvantage. The FVI will continue to recognize diversity within sub-populations. It will continue to work on aligning departmental performance reporting with the FVI umbrella RMAF to strengthen program capacity and effectiveness and accountability for results.

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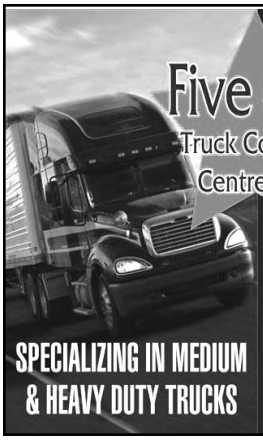

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FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2008

ADDRESSING FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY FEDERAL MILESTONES IN CANADA'S JOURNEY

1980	• The Committee on Sexual Offences Against Children and Youth is established.
1982	• The National Clearinghouse on Family Violence is established.
1983	• The Federal-Provincial Task Force on Victims of Crime makes a series of recommendations to address issues of wife abuse, child abuse and abuse of the elderly.
1984	• The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women Working Group on Wife Battering outlines a set of coordinated initiatives to address this issue.
1986	• The Child Sexual Abuse Initiative is launched.
1988	• The *Criminal Code of Canada* is amended with Bill C-15, creating new child sexual abuse offences. • The Family Violence Initiative (FVI) is launched (first phase).
1990	• The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women issues a Declaration on Violence Against Women.
1991	• December 6 is declared the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women to commemorate the tragic 1989 killings of 14 women at Montreal's École Polytechnique. • The second phase of the FVI is launched. The Call to Action focuses on increasing public awareness and changing attitudes; strengthening the federal legal framework; providing services on reserve; strengthening intervention and treatment services; increasing the availability of housing for victims; and enhancing national information exchange and coordination. • Statistics Canada begins collecting information on transition home services and clientele through the Transition Home Survey (THS) developed under the FVI and in consultation with provincial/territorial governments and transition home associations.
1993	• The Violence Against Women Survey is released, the first national survey to examine the safety of women both inside and outside the home. • The *Criminal Code of Canada* is amended with Bill C-126, creating a new anti-stalking offence of criminal harassment.
1995	• The *Criminal Code of Canada* is amended with Bill C-72, eliminating intoxication as a defence in cases of sexual assault and battery.
1996	• The current third phase of the FVI is approved as an ongoing federal commitment.
1997	• A healing fund to address the legacy of Aboriginal residential school abuse is established. • The *Criminal Code of Canada* is amended with Bill C-27, making murder, committed while stalking a victim, a first-degree offence where the murderer intended to instil fear concerning the victim's safety; ensures that breach of a protective order is taken into account as an aggravating factor in sentencing an offender for criminal harassment; amends provisions regarding child sex tourism; and clarifies that female genital mutilation is prohibited in Canada. • The first annual report on *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile* is published by Statistics Canada under the FVI to provide the most current data on the nature and extent of family violence in Canada and trends over time.
1998	• The Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect is released, the first national study of child maltreatment in Canada.
1999	• The *Criminal Code of Canada* is amended through Bill C-79, ensuring the safety of the victim is taken into account in bail decisions and to permit publication bans to protect the identity of any victim or witness. • The General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization is released, the first national survey to collect victim reported information on spousal violence against both women and men. • Additional funding over four years is announced for the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP) which was enhanced to include shelters and second stage housing for youth.

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FAMILY VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR APRIL 2004 TO MARCH 2008

ADDRESSING FAMILY VIOLENCE: KEY FEDERAL MILESTONES IN CANADA'S JOURNEY (CON'T)

2002	• The *Criminal Code of Canada* is amended with Bill C-15A, creating new offences to address the sexual exploitation of children, particularly in child pornography and Internet. • Federal regulations concerning family sponsorship are amended to reduce the vulnerability of sponsored persons, by creating a provision to bar persons convicted of a sexual offence or a Criminal Code offence against certain relatives from sponsoring, unless they have been granted a pardon or five years have passed since the completion of their sentence.
2003	• The Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect is released, updating the 1998 study. • CMHC's renovation programs, including SEP, are extended and additional resources for shelters for victims of family violence are provided.
2004	• The Government of Canada releases *A Canada Fit for Children*, Canada's response to commitments made at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children. • The Government of Canada becomes a founding member of the World Health Organization's Violence Prevention Alliance. • The second cycle of the General Social Survey on Victimization is released.
2005	• The Working Group on Aboriginal Family Violence is established at the federal level.
2006	• The *Criminal Code of Canada* and the *Canada Evidence Act* are amended with Bill C-2 to further strengthen child pornography provisions, including increasing penalties and introducing mandatory minimum sentences for specific sexual offences against children; to create new offences related to the sexual exploitation of youth (aged 14-18) and voyeurism; to increase protection of victims of spousal violence by measures to facilitate the criminal law enforcement of breaches of civil restraining orders; and it included enabling measures to facilitate testimony of child victims and witnesses. • Statistics Canada and the federal-provincial-territorial ministers responsible for the Status of Women release the report, *Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006*. • Additional two-year funding for CMHC's renovations programs, including the SEP, is announced.
2007	• New investments are announced for family violence prevention programs and services for First Nations on-reserve communities, including funding for up to five new shelters through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Shelter Enhancement Program and increased operational support for the existing network of 35 shelters and for the new shelters.
2008	• The Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission is announced.

WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Family violence includes a range of abusive behaviours that occur within relationships based on kinship, intimacy, dependency or trust. Family violence is abusive behaviour that can be physical, sexual, psychological or financial. It can also take the form of physical or emotional neglect. Canadians from all walks of life have experienced or have been affected by family violence. It has serious health and social consequences.

SCOPE, NATURE AND EXTENT OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family relationships are based on bonds of kinship, intimacy, dependency or trust. Family violence violates these bonds. Although there has been significant public and professional attention directed at addressing many different dimensions of family violence, it continues to occur, in somewhat shifting patterns. Public dialogue on family violence and its consequences, as well as new and innovative research on family violence, continue to deepen and expand knowledge of this complex and tragic issue.

Violence in family relationships takes many forms and may include acts of physical or sexual assault (as defined by the *Criminal Code of Canada*) as well as other forms of physical and sexual abuse and exploitation, financial exploitation, neglect, emotional abuse and spiritual abuse. Whether family violence is part of an ongoing pattern of experiencing or witnessing abusive behaviour or is an isolated incident, the consequences can be devastating and in some instances fatal.

Since 1997, Statistics Canada has produced an annual report, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*, which details new information on family violence in

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Canada. This profile is based on data provided to Statistics Canada by various agencies, through the administration of self-report surveys and the use of police-reported data. These data sources illustrate the scope of family violence in Canada, help to inform policy development, and provide important benchmarks against which to measure progress being made nationally to address this issue.

FAMILY VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The federal government, through Criminal Code provisions, and provincial and territorial governments, through their respective child welfare laws, play important roles in protecting children from child abuse. Canada's Criminal Code provides a broad range of measures designed to protect persons from violence, including children. Though the Criminal Code also contains several child-specific offences to protect children and youth, it does not define "child abuse." In addition, there is no single comprehensive national data source on violence and abuse against children and youth; information is drawn from a number of sources, which include self-report surveys, police-reported data and surveys of child.

In 2006, according to police-reported data, children and youth who were victims of assault (including sexual assault) were most often victimized by someone they knew. A total of 12,198 children and youth were victims of family-related (physical and sexual) assaults in 2006. For every 100,000 young persons, 334 were victims of physical or sexual violence by a friend or an acquaintance, 187 were victimized by a family member, and 101 were victimized by a stranger. These rates indicate that the majority of these children and youth were victimized by friends or acquaintances (41 percent) or a family member (24 percent).

CHART 3: Rates of family homicide against children and youth higher than non-family homicide, 1974 to 2006

rates per million population (0 to 17 years)

NOTES: Excludes homicides for which police reported the accused-victim relationship as unknown. Rates are calculated per million children and youth (0 to 17 year olds) using population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

rates per million population (0 to 17 years)

Parents are the most commonly identified perpetrators of family violence against children and youth. In 2006, 107 per 100,000 children and youth were physically or sexually assaulted by a parent. This rate was more than double the rate of assaults committed by siblings (39 per 100,000), and nearly three times higher than the rate of assaults committed by extended family (36 per 100,000 population).

Trend information on the rates of physical and sexual assault against children and youth are available from 1998 to 2005. The rate of sexual assault against children and youth by a family member increased 15 percent and the rates of physical assault increased 8 percent between 2003 and 2005. The gap in the rate of child and youth sexual and physical assaults between non-family members and family members has narrowed slightly over time.

According to police-reported data for 2006, family-related assaults against children and youth were more likely to have been physical assaults as opposed to sexual assaults. The rate of physical assault by a parent (83 victims per 100,000 children and youth) was more than three times higher than the rate of sexual assault (24 victims per 100,000 children and youth). Rates of physical assault by family members were slightly higher for girls than for boys (133 compared with 116 incidents per 100,000 children and youth population). They experienced sexual assault by family members at a rate that was four times higher than the rate experienced by boys and young men (102 compared with 25 incidents per 100,000 population). Among the 4,089 child and youth victims of family-related sexual assaults, 80 percent of the victims were female.

In 2006, men were the accused in the vast majority of family-related sexual assaults against children and youth (96 percent), as well as physical assaults against children and youth (71 percent). For sexual assaults, fathers were involved in 35 percent of incidents against their children, followed by male extended family members (33 percent) and brothers (28 percent).

According to the 1998-99 National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 1 in 12 children aged 4 to 7 (8 percent, or about 120,000 children) had witnessed some type of physical violence in the home. The consequences of this are significant, as research suggests that children who witness violence are more likely to exhibit aggression and anxiety.

The 2004 GSS found that the presence of children in the home and children witnessing the violence increased the likelihood that female victims of spousal violence will contact the authorities. A total of 51 percent of women victims of spousal violence who indicated that their children witnessed the violence committed against them notified the police, compared with only 30 percent who said that their children did not witness the violence.

As CHART 3 above shows, from 1974 to 2006, the annual

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rate of homicide against children and youth has fluctuated. The rate of child and youth homicides perpetrated by family members has been consistently higher than the rate committed by non-family members. The rate of family homicides of children and youth recorded in 2005 was the lowest rate recorded in the past 33 years.47In 2006, there were 60 homicides committed against children and youth under the age of 18 across Canada. The majority (six in 10) were committed by family members (36 homicides), compared with 27 percent (16 homicides) committed by non-family members, including acquaintances and friends, with the remaining 13 percent (8) of child homicides going unsolved. Of the family perpetrated homicides against children and youth, the majority were committed by parents. Over the past three decades (1977 to 2006), 90 percent of family-related homicide victims under the age of 18 were killed by a parent.

Looking at trends within parent perpetrated family homicides, fathers were more likely than mothers to commit homicides against children and youth. Between 1997 and 2006, 56 percent of children killed by a family member were killed by their fathers, 33 percent by their mothers, and the remaining 10 percent by other family members including siblings, grandparents, cousins or other extended family.

CONSEQUENCES

There are myriad, serious consequences associated family violence. For example, a child may experience consequences that are psychological, physical, behavioural, academic, sexual, interpersonal, self-perceptual or spiritual. In addition, children exposed to violence and abuse in the home may experience increased emotional and behavioural difficulties. Change can be sudden or occur slowly over time, shaping children as they grow. Abuse can have lifetime effects on a person's health status and other life dimensions. For example, a 2002 WHO study found that the lifetime impacts of child sexual abuse are a significant factor in cases of mental health conditions and disorders, such as depression, suicide, and panic disorders. Being abused can harm a person's physical and mental health, their ability to work, and their relationships with their children and other loved ones. Being abused can destroy a person's sense of self-worth and sense of being capable. Substance abuse (alcohol or drugs), if used as a coping mechanism, may further endanger an abused person's health and well-being. Experiences of abuse are contributing factors in people moving in and out of homelessness. Elderly victims may be particularly vulnerable to financial abuse and neglect, yet the experience and consequences of elder abuse often remain hidden and untold.

RESPONSES TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence is a complex, challenging issue. It has been well-established across Canadian jurisdictions and internationally, that responding to family violence requires integrated, interdisciplinary response involving federal and provincial/territorial governments, diverse sectors and disciplines. It is important to recognize that some dimensions of family violence are criminal acts under the Criminal Code of Canada, some are not. Some forms of abuse are addressed by provincial or territorial child welfare legislation or through provincial and territorial legislation on family/domestic violence. For example, in Nunavut, a Family Abuse Intervention Act came into force in March 2008, which includes a range of provisions and measures to improve protection for victims and people at risk. The law is only one part of the response. A consistent and increasingly deep body of knowledge shows that appropriate health, housing and social services are essential elements in addressing family violence. Over the years, the FVI partners have been working together with their provincial and territorial counterparts and other stakeholders to prevent violence and improve services and systems so that they better meet the needs of those affected by family violence. Continuing public awareness and education, professional development and training, and research and evaluation are part of an effective response. Indeed, all orders of government as well as institutions and agencies from a variety of disciplines and sectors play a role in preventing and addressing family violence.

EXPECTED INTERMEDIATE RESULT:

Increased Public awareness of Family Violence issues

A public opinion poll conducted in 2002 indicated that there was significant public support for efforts to prevent and respond to family violence: 75 percent of those polled considered that it should be a high priority for governments and communities.

In 2006, the research firm Ipsos-Reid prepared a report entitled Aboriginal Women and Family Violence for INAC, which explores attitudes and opinions of Aboriginal women, and the professionals who work with them, on the issue of family violence, specifically intimate partner violence against women. This report reaffirms that awareness raising and education about family violence issues make a difference, and that continuing these efforts is important to shifting attitudes and changing behaviours.

Consultations conducted by the National Seniors Council

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on Elder Abuse in 2007 reaffirmed that increasing awareness of elder abuse must be "enhanced and accelerated."

EXPECTED INTERMEDIATE RESULT:

Enhanced community capacity to address Family Violence

Many capacity barriers to implementation continue to exist in communities, including adequate personnel, resources and space to sustain service delivery. The FVI is helping to address some of these barriers by making recommendations to strengthen the legislative frameworks to address family violence, facilitating the development of local policies and protocols to address violence, enhancing local knowledge and skills to effect change, enhancing shelters and improving service delivery and programming in federally mandated areas, and by facilitating partnership development, networks and linkages to other sources of knowledge, expertise, support.

Anecdotal evidence from project funding recipients indicates that FVI contributions to community capacity enhancement are valued. These projects have helped to increase knowledge and expertise and have provided essential tools and resources to equip communities to respond to family violence issues, and with the support of other partners and stakeholders, have enhanced the availability and accessibility of services and supports to those most in need. In the reporting period, this has been particularly evident in project funding for Aboriginal, ethnocultural and immigrant communities.

Photo credit: Katherine Dimock-Lavoie

The Family Violence Initiative Performance Report for April 2004 to March 2008 was prepared by Wanda Jamieson and Lee Gomes, JHG Consulting, for the Family Violence Initiative.

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THE CRIMINAL LAW AND MANAGING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR

The following explains what the criminal law says about how parents, caregivers, and teachers may respond when children under their care are misbehaving or doing something that might be dangerous to themselves or others. It describes what actions are acceptable and what actions may lead to criminal charges and a possible conviction for breaking the law.

Changes in society

In the past, it was acceptable to hit people to make them obey. Sea captains, factory owners, employers, teachers, and parents could use physical force as a punishment. Many years ago, children, students, servants, and employees might, for example, be whipped to punish them or force them to do certain tasks. In those days, the justice system would not usually have been involved unless the adult or child were seriously injured or killed.

Over the last century, society has changed and the law has changed too. Employers are not allowed to hit their employees–ever. School boards have banned teachers from hitting students or using a strap, ruler, or other object to discipline students.

Today, parents may be breaking the law if they punish their child in the same way that their own parents punished them.

The law on assault in the Criminal Code

The Criminal Code says that assaulting someone or threatening to assault someone is a crime. Slapping, punching, pinching, kicking, restraining, or even touching are all examples of actions that may be considered assault.

However, not every action involving contact or the threat of contact between two people is assault. There are some exceptions. People may give their consent to contact. So, for example, hockey players may body check each other and boxers may punch each other without it being a crime. This is because they have given their consent to physical contact within the rules of the sport.

Section 43 of the Criminal Code — an exception to the law on assault

The Criminal Code contains a section that provides another exception to the law on assault. Section 43 allows parents, caregivers and teachers to use reasonable force to correct a child's behaviour or a student's behaviour without being found guilty of assault.

Section 43 of the Criminal Code says:

> *Every schoolteacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil or child, as the case may be, who is under his care, if the force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances.*

This means that, under some circumstances, when parents, caregivers, or teachers use reasonable force to control a child or keep the child or other children, safe, they may not be found guilty of a criminal offence.

However, section 43 is not a defence for every action a parent, teacher, or caregiver may take. A parent, teacher or caregiver may only use reasonable force. And they may only use that reasonable force when it is connected to their duties to the child. Section 43 cannot be used as a defence, for example, when a child has been harmed or abused.

The Supreme Court of Canada decision

A few years ago, the Supreme Court of Canada made a decision about section 43 that helps to understand the law on assault today.

The Supreme Court of Canada said that the use of force on a child is only allowed to help the child learn. The parent, caregiver, or teacher using force must be correcting behaviour at the time it is happening, and the person must not use force on a child in anger.

The Supreme Court of Canada found that it was not appropriate to use force on a very young child or a teenager. The use of force will only be allowed under the exception in section 43 if the child is between two years old and twelve years old. Using force to punish a child under two is not appropriate because a child that young cannot learn from the situation. Using force on a teenager is not appropriate because there are better and more effective ways to respond to a teenager's behaviour.

Section 43 says that the force used on a two to twelve-year-old child must be "reasonable under the circumstances". The Supreme Court of Canada defined "reasonable" as force that would have a "transitory and trifling" impact on the child. For example, spanking or slapping a child so hard that it leaves a mark that lasts for several hours would not be considered "transitory and trifling".

The Supreme Court of Canada also said that the force used must not be degrading, inhumane, or harmful. The person using force must not use an object, such as a ruler or belt, and must not hit or slap the child's head.

Finally, the Supreme Court of Canada said that the seriousness of the child's misbehaviour is not relevant. The force used must be minor, no matter what the child did.

The use of force when managing children's behaviour

There are times when parents, caregivers, and teachers may have to use force to control a child and keep the child, or other children, safe. Grabbing a child to keep that child from running across the street, carrying a screaming three-year-old out of a store, or separating two

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young students who are fighting may require a parent, caregiver, or teacher to touch or restrain the child.

Without section 43, parents, caregivers, and teachers could face criminal charges and have to go to court to defend their actions whenever they used force to respond to a child's behaviour.

Summary

The use of force to correct a child is only allowed to help the child learn and can never be used in anger.

* The child must be between two years old and twelve years old.
* The force used must be reasonable and its impact only "transitory and trifling".
* The person must not use an object, such as a ruler or belt, when applying the force.
* The person must not hit or slap the child's head.
* The seriousness of what happened or what the child did is not relevant.

Using reasonable force to restrain a child may be acceptable in some circumstances.

Hitting a child in anger or in retaliation for something a child did is not considered reasonable and is against the law.

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CANADIAN INCIDENCE STUDY OF REPORTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

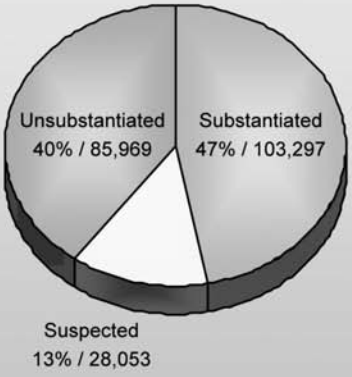
CHILD MALTREATMENT IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

Child maltreatment can result in immediate physical or emotional harm, and damage a child's behavioural, social, emotional and cognitive development. The Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS) is a national child health surveillance activity which examines child maltreatment reported to, and investigated by, child welfare agencies.

CIS-2003 is the second cycle of the study; the first was in 1998. CIS-2003 gathered information on child maltreatment investigations opened over a 3 month period in a representative sample of 63 Child Welfare Service Areas. Estimates derived from the sample are weighted national annual estimates. In all jurisdictions except Quebec, child welfare workers provided information by completing a data collection instrument. In Quebec, the information was extracted directly from an administrative information system. The different collection methods in Quebec limited the inclusion of those data in the national analyses.

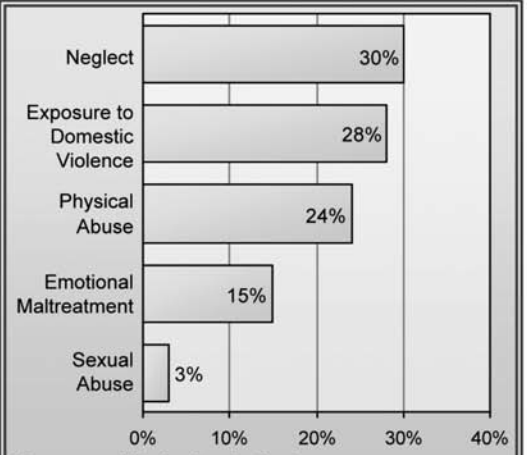
CHILD MALTREATMENT INVESTIGATIONS 2003

Child Maltreatment Investigations in Canada, excluding Quebec



These are weighted national estimates

Primary Category of Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Canada, excluding Quebec



These are weighted national estimates

NOTABLE

- The study population was children under 16.
- Girls, 49% of total, were more often victims of sexual abuse (63%) & emotional maltreatment (54%). Boys were more often victims of physical abuse (54%).
- More of the cases of physical & sexual abuse were in older children, and more exposure to domestic violence was in younger children.
- Physical harm was identified in 10% of cases while emotional harm was noted in 20% of cases.

CATEGORIES OF SUBSTANTIATED CHILD MALTREATMENT 1998 and 2003

Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Canada, excluding Quebec

From 1998 to 2003 the estimated incidence of substantiated child maltreatment increased from 9.64 to 21.71 cases per 1,000 children.

CIS-2003 findings suggest that this increase reflects improved and expanded reporting and investigation.

Public Health Agency of Canada

Canada

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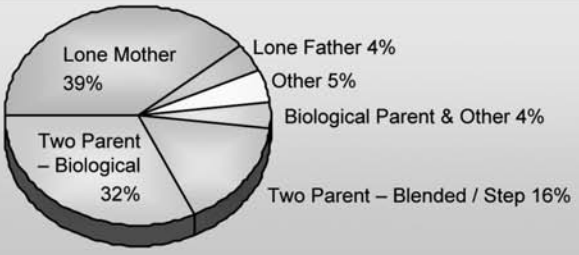
CANADIAN INCIDENCE STUDY OF REPORTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

The CIS is a collaborative effort of the federal, provincial and territorial governments, child welfare service providers, researchers, the corporate sector and child advocates.

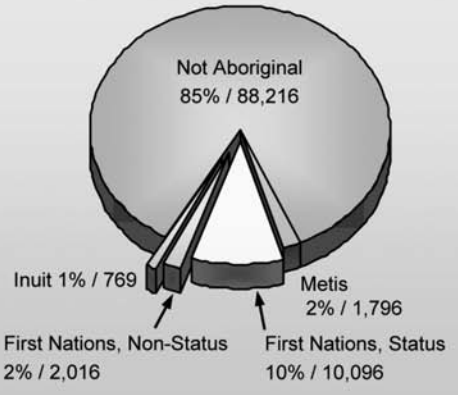
HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE

Parents / Caregivers of Victims of Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Canada, excluding Quebec, in 2003



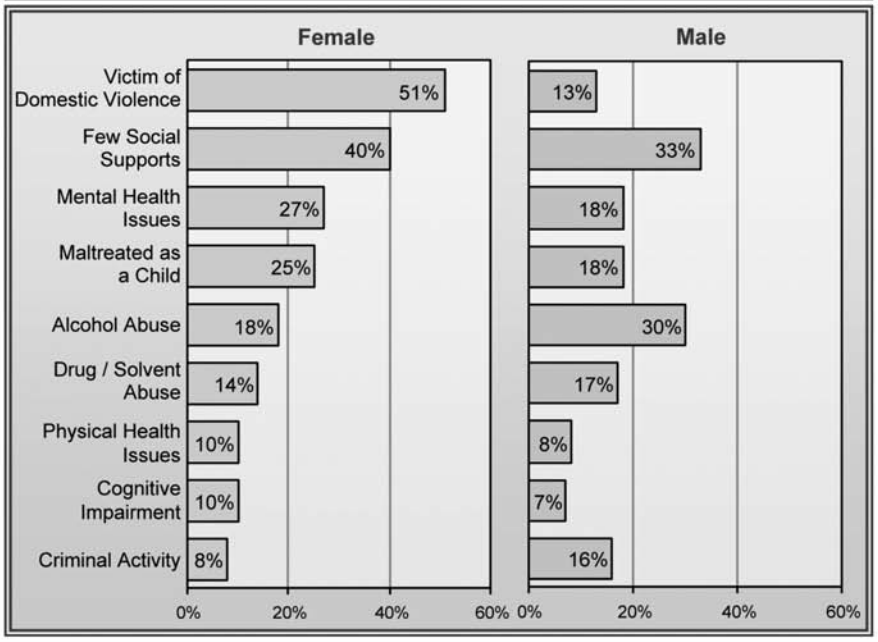
ABORIGINAL STATUS OF CHILDREN

Aboriginal Status of Victims of Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Canada, excluding Quebec, in 2003



PARENT / CAREGIVER PROBLEMS

Female and Male Parent / Caregiver Risk Factors in Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Canada, excluding Quebec, in 2003



NEXT STEPS

The CIS partners will disseminate the study results, including reporting back to child welfare agencies.

Researchers will further analyze the 1998 and 2003 datasets to examine in more detail the factors underlying the changes over time.

Child maltreatment surveillance remains a key component of national child health surveillance.

This is public health at work: collaboration across jurisdictions, sectors and disciplines to improve the lives of children in Canada.

Ref: Trocmé, Fallon, MacLaurin et al. *Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect – 2003: Major Findings*, 2005.

For Further Information

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The Maltreatment of Adolescents in Canada

Information for Canadians

The issue

Abuse and neglect of youth is a serious social problem. Despite the ability of some youth to overcome the eff ects of maltreatment during adolescence, a history of abuse and/or neglect is associated with serious consequences, such as:

- Development of mental illness, especially disorders related to over-use of drugs and alcohol; depression; anxiety (especially as it relates to reminders of trauma); and eating disorders. Other difficulties encountered by youth with histories of maltreatment are related to their ability to trust and engage in relationships with others, as well as their ability to attend, concentrate and learn at school.
- Links with high school drop-out. High school drop-out is related to decreased lifelong earning potential. Poverty has been shown to heighten the risk of developing long-term health conditions and adding stress to daily functioning.
- Links to risk-taking behaviour and conflict with the law.
- Links to lower social support; fewer relationships; isolation.
- Links to heightened risk of suicide and life-threatening behaviour.

Clearly, the effects of maltreatment of youth involve immediate and long-term suffering. These consequences turn into a loss for society.

All youth are faced with the major tasks of growing into healthy adulthood. Healthy development is threatened by experiences of abuse and/or neglect, and its lack puts youth at significant disadvantage (compared with non-maltreated peers) as they enter early adulthood.

Background

The exact number of Canadian youth who are maltreated is unknown. However, *The Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect – 2003: Major Findings (Trocmé, N., Fallon, B., MacLaurin, B., Daciuk, J., Felstiner, C., et al., 2005)* states that of all reported maltreatment investigations that took place during the fall of 2003 in Canada, 24% involved youth aged 12–15. Of these investigations, 49% were substantiated. In other words, almost half of the cases of suspected maltreatment (involving youth) that were reported to child protection services were found to have supporting evidence that maltreatment had occurred, as described by the investigating child welfare workers' professional opinion.

Importantly, not every province and territory has maltreatment legislation for youth older than 15. This makes it more difficult to estimate incidence rates for youth between the ages of 16 and 19. Based on existing data from the *Canadian Incidence Study* – 2003, however, the authors observed an increase in substantiation rates among older youth.

What is maltreatment?

The five primary categories of maltreatment are:

(i) Physical abuse

(ii) Sexual abuse

(iii) Neglect

(iv) Emotional maltreatment

(v) Exposure to domestic violence

Nineteen percent of substantiated cases of maltreatment documented in the CIS–2003 involved investigations of more than one category of maltreatment. The most frequent co-occurring forms of maltreatment in children were neglect and emotional maltreatment. Plans for collecting information on the rate of substantiated cases of co-occurring maltreatment involving youth are currently under way.

What youth are at risk?

Gender (aged 12–15)

Across the five categories of maltreatment, female youth aged 12–15 experience higher rates of substantiated maltreatment than do male youth of the same age group.

Age (12–15)

Across the five major kinds of maltreatment, both male and female youth experience higher rates of substantiated physical and sexual abuse than do children of any other age group.

Maltreatment of youth by type

Sexual abuse

- Seventy-nine percent of substantiated cases of sexual abuse involved female youth, whereas 21% involved male youth.
- The substantiation rate for females experiencing sexual abuse increases with age.

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The Maltreatment of Adolescents in Canada

Information for Canadians

...The Maltreatment of Adolescents in Canada continued

Given that youth between the ages of 16 and 18 are less protected by child welfare laws, the finding that adolescent girls are more frequently sexually victimized as they age makes them particularly at risk.

Emotional maltreatment

Among youth maltreatment reported to child welfare, emotional maltreatment is of greater risk to female youth (57% of substantiated cases) than male youth (43% of substantiated cases) between the ages of 12 and 15.

Physical abuse

- Among those reported to child welfare, female youth aged 12–15 are at greater risk of experiencing physical abuse than are male youth.
- Female youth were the subjects of 54% of substantiated cases, compared with 46% of their age-graded male peers.

Neglect and exposure to domestic violence

For some forms of maltreatment, gender differences in rates of substantiation are relatively similar. Among male and female youth between the ages of 12 and 15:

- Fifty-two percent of substantiated cases of neglect involved female youth.

Family characteristics of maltreated youth

In the development of services for prevention and support, increasing interest has been generated towards understanding what circumstances place some families at greater risk of maltreatment than others. Among substantiated cases across all ages (children *and* youth), the following family characteristics are linked with increased risk:

- Having more than one child or youth in the home
- Parental full-time employment
- Rental housing
- Moving within the past year
- Parental social isolation, parental history of violence and alcohol abuse

As a group, these risk factors are not surprising. Being a parent who works full time to raise more than one child or adolescent is stressful, as is moving, non-permanent housing and social isolation. A personal history of violence and current alcohol use disorder are two additional life circumstances that can make daily functioning unmanageable; parents in these situations are more likely than others to require support in providing nurturing environments for their children and youth.

What can you do?

Encourage youth to talk!

Unfortunately, there are many circumstances in which youth fear stigma or consequences of further maltreatment when contemplating self-reporting their experience of maltreatment, particularly if they are being maltreated by their caregivers. Consequently, maltreatment of youth remains a largely hidden social problem. All Canadians — adults and youth themselves — have a role in raising public awareness. Your involvement makes a difference!

Although it is called "Kids Help Phone," youth are welcome to call and talk to the counsellors that staff the telephone lines. They can help steer youth towards resources in their community and be there for support during hard or confusing times. The toll-free number is 1-800-668-6868.

Citizens

If you are ever aware of a situation in which an adolescent is at risk or in danger, call the Child Protection Services in your area. If you are unsure whether the circumstances that concern you warrant investigation, rest assured that child protection workers are well-trained in risk assessment.

Information on how to report suspected cases of child maltreatment, how to contact provincial/territorial ministries responsible for children's services, and local resources for children and parents can be accessed at:

www.cecw-cepb.ca

If it is an emergency call 9-1-1

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Abuse is Wrong

Anyone—man or woman, adult or child—who is suffering from abuse or who is acting in a violent way is encouraged to get help.

What is abuse?

Abuse is behaviour used to intimidate, isolate, dominate or control another person. It may be a pattern of behaviour or it may be a single incident. Abusive behaviour might involve acts or words or even neglect.

Abuse happens when someone hurts or mistreats you.

Abuse can happen to anyone:

someone in a family or someone in a dating relationship, a spouse or former spouse, a partner in an intimate relationship or former partner, a child, young person, or older person.

The abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or financial. You may experience more than one type of abuse.

Examples of **physical abuse** are:

- hitting
- pinching
- slapping
- pushing
- punching
- kicking
- burning
- shooting
- stabbing or cutting

These types of physical abuse are examples of assault.* Assault is a crime in Canada.

In an emergency

Call 9-1-1 or your local police.

Run outside so other people can see you unless you think you will be safer inside.

Scream—let the neighbours hear so that they will call the police.

Sexual touching or sexual activity is abuse if you do not consent or if you are too young to consent.

This is also a crime in Canada, even in a dating, partner, spousal or family relationship.

Emotional or psychological abuse might include:

- criminal harassment* (stalking)
- making threats to harm you
- breaking your things, hurting your pets or threatening to do so
- isolating you from friends and family

Some examples of **financial abuse** are:

- taking your pay cheque or money without permission
- withholding money so that you cannot pay for things you or your children need, such as food, shelter or medical treatment
- making you sign documents to sell your house or to change your will

These are crimes in Canada.

Criminal harrassment

(stalking) is a crime. The following actions might be examples of

criminal harassment if they cause you to fear for your safety or the safety of a loved one:

- watching you or tracking where you go
- leaving threatening messages
- making threats to you, your children, family, pets or friends
- calling you over and over again, and perhaps hanging up when you answer
- constantly sending you e-mail messages
- sending gifts you do not want

Bullying is a form of abuse that can happen in a relationship or in a family. It may be physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, financial, or a combination. Some forms of bullying may be crimes.

Some examples of **bullying** may be:

- hitting, kicking, pushing or shoving
- taking your money and other possessions
- making threats or acting in an intimidating way
- constantly teasing you or calling you names
- spreading hurtful rumours
- ignoring you and making you feel left out

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Abuse is Wrong

There are **other forms of abuse** that may not be crimes, but even so, they are hurtful and they might lead to criminal forms of abuse.

Some examples are:

- humiliating you or making you feel worthless
- insulting, ignoring or neglecting you
- constantly yelling at you
- calling you names
- not letting you have money that you need
- ridiculing your religious or spiritual beliefs or preventing you from practising your religion
- deciding what you can and can't do, where you can go, what you can wear, and who you can be with
- forcing you to marry someone you don't want to marry

Help is available

There are people who can help you if you are being abused.

If you are being abused, call a health centre, community organization or shelter. Find out what help they can offer. Ask them where else you should call or go for help.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1 or your local police. They will take steps to protect you and your children or other dependents. The police can also help you get a peace bond*.

You can also get

- advice and counselling
- help to decide whether you want to stay or leave
- legal help* that may be free of charge If you decide to leave, you can get
- help to leave and a safe place to stay
- financial help
- an order from a civil or family court*

Where can you get more information?

- shelters
- the police
- the Crown attorney's* office
- hospitals
- multicultural associations
- community centres or women's centres
- telephone crisis lines
- public legal education and information associations
- lawyer referral services
- legal aid offices
- a doctor or public health nurse
- a social worker*

You are not alone

Abuse happens in all kinds of families. It happens to Canadian citizens, immigrants and refugees. It happens to women and men with or without children, people who are rich or poor, professionals, stay-at-home parents, young and old. It happens to individuals of all backgrounds, religions, races, cultures, ethnic origins and sexual orientations. Abuse also can happen at any stage of a relationship.

Help is available to those who are being abused.

Abuse in a family

Witnessing abuse in a family or being abused can have serious physical, psychological and emotional consequences, possibly leading to repeated patterns of violent behaviour. Sometimes parents act abusively toward their children and sometimes adolescent children act abusively toward their parents or toward other family members. Even brothers and sisters may act abusively toward each other.

Young people facing abuse

It is very hard for children to suffer abuse or to see or hear a parent, sibling or other family member being abused. If you are a young person and you are being abused, or if you are witnessing the abuse of a brother, sister, parent or other family member, you might feel scared, embarrassed or confused. Abuse can affect your behaviour, physical and mental health, self-esteem, and performance in school. It may also affect the way you socialize with others.

You may be frustrated and want to take it out on other people. You may be acting out in a violent way or you may be bullying someone at school, or perhaps you are being bullied. No matter what the situation, it is wrong to hurt anyone. Tell someone you trust about the abuse. If you are acting violently toward anyone else, get help before the situation gets worse so you can stop the cycle of violence.

If you are a young person and you are being abused or you are acting out in a violent way, you can call the Kids' Helpline free of charge. You don't have to tell them your name: 1-800-668-6868.

You can also find out more at the Family Violence Youth Site:

http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/fv-vf/fvy-vfj/index.html

If you are being abused, it is not your fault

Talking about abuse can be difficult. You might feel ashamed or afraid that your family and friends will not believe you. Some people may even try to convince you that what is happening is normal in a relationship, or they

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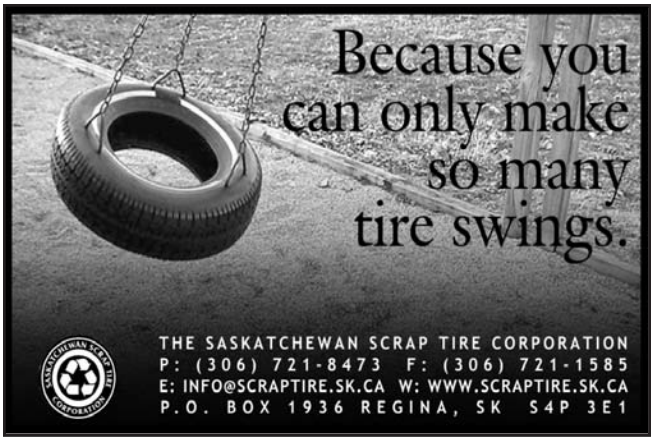

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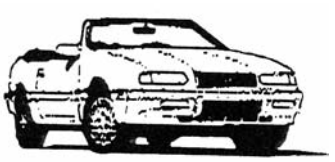

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Abuse is Wrong

may be threatening you to keep quiet. You may be afraid of being rejected by your community if you leave. But remember—nothing you do gives anyone the right to abuse you. There is no excuse for abuse.

Many people have found that there is a cycle of abuse. The tension builds for a while until the person acts violently. After the "explosion" or violence, there is a period of calm or quiet. The person who behaved abusively may say they are sorry and promise it will not happen again.

However, in time, the tension builds and the person may become violent again.

Others describe an everincreasing spiral of abuse

where the severity of the violence becomes worse over time and the violent outbursts occur more and more often.

Your children need protection

If you are a parent and suffering abuse, this can make it harder for you to look after your children. The abuse may also be very draining, leaving you with less energy to share with your children.

The children may learn from seeing the abuse that they do not need to respect you. The children may also learn that they do not need to respect their own future partners. This may lead to further violence or a cycle of violence that is passed down from one generation to the next.

Child abuse is against the law. If your children are being abused, you **must** get help for them. You can go to a child protection or family services agency for advice, help or counselling. Children need to be protected from abuse. If you do not take steps to protect them, there may be legal consequences. For example, the police and child protection services* may become involved.

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RespectED programs & services

Stopping the cycle of abuse in our communities begins with knowledge

Red Cross prevention education aims to stop the hurt before it starts.

Our nationally recognized, award-winning programs teach kids and adults how healthy relationships look and feel, how to recognize the signs of abuse, dating violence and harassment, and how to get help. Youth learn skills to help them create healthy relationships. Adults gain knowledge to build safer relationships within their organizations and communities.

Since 1984, RespectED has:

- Certified more than 7,800 volunteer Prevention Educators
- Educated over 3 million Canadian children and youth
- Educated more than 1 million adults

RespectED is made possible through the contribution of over 1000 trained Prevention Educators, our volunteers and partners across the country who offer presentations and workshops.

Canadian Red Cross

RespectED: Violence & Abuse Prevention

THE NEED

In every community and cultural group, every day, thousands of children and youth are harmed by emotional, physical and/or sexual maltreatment. The ramifications on individuals, families and society are staggering: children and families become embedded in pain and dysfunction while society attempts to respond with crisis interventions that are often too little, too late.

Violence against children and youth is widespread in the world and in Canada

- Worldwide, 150 million girls and 75 million boys experience sexual violence yearly.
- There are over 1 million images of child sexual abuse on the Internet.
- Girls with disabilities are victims of sexual abuse four times more often than girls without disabilities.
- Only 2.4% of the world's children are legally protected from corporal punishment in all settings.
- Every year 1 in 5 children is sexually solicited online.
- 275 million children witness violence in their homes yearly.
- In Canada:
  - 38% of children under 18 are physically abused.
  - 25% of children under 18 are sexually abused.
  - 75% of Aboriginal girls under the age of 18 have been sexually abused.

continued...

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...RespectED continued

RespectED programs & services

Stopping the cycle of abuse in our communities begins with knowledge

Relationship violence among youth is rampant

- Survey findings indicate that 30–35% of youth report violence within dating relationships.

Bullying and harassment take a toll every day on young people

- In Canada, 39% of children under 18 have been bullied.
- A major study in Toronto schools found that a bullying act took place every 7 minutes; teachers were aware of only 4% of these incidents.

PREVENTION IS THE SOLUTION

The effectiveness of prevention education is well-documented. A recent study found that young women who had not received sexual abuse prevention education in childhood were twice as likely to experience sexual abuse than those who had participated in such a program.

RespectED: Violence & Abuse Prevention has been helping to promote healthier relationships and safer communities since 1984. Built on decades of Red Cross experience in prevention education, community-based safety programming, and volunteer involvement, this award-winning service has helped more than 4 million children, youth and adults understand violence issues. All programs engage learners in an interactive process, and encourage a proactive, comprehensive, community approach to prevention that incorporates education for youth and adults, risk assessment, policy development, evaluation, advocacy and monitoring.

The aim of RespectED: Violence & Abuse Prevention is to break the cycle of abuse, neglect, harassment and interpersonal violence through prevention services, and in so doing, promote safe and supportive relationships between individuals, within the family and throughout our communities.

HOW RESPECTED HELPS

RespectED educates and certifies volunteers, teachers, and community members as Prevention Educators. In collaboration with schools, sport organizations, community agencies, and other institutions, RespectED Prevention Educators deliver presentations and workshops that enable participants to:

- define healthy relationships
- understand violence and abuse of power
- promote safe environments
- learn that abuse, harassment and bullying are never the victim's fault
- locate helping resources.

RESPECTED PROGRAMS

1. Comprehensive Risk Management Programs

- **Ten Steps to Creating Safe Environments for Children and Youth** equips youth-serving organizations to establish safe environments for young people through risk assessment, policy development, codes of conduct, and educational and support services.
- **Prevention in Motion** helps adults and organizations to create safer environments through an increased understanding of abuse, neglect, their indicators and effects on children. It is available in-person and online, and can be customized to suit the audience, including sport, child/youth care, faith institutions, and others
- **Walking the Prevention Circle** acknowledges the history, challenges and potential of Aboriginal individuals and communities while exploring issues related to abuse, neglect and interpersonal violence.

2. Preventing Violence Against Children and Youth Programs

- **c.a.r.e.** (Canada) & **Be Safe!** (International) are personal safety programs with the goal to prevent abuse against children aged 5–9. These programs combine story-telling, puppetry, songs and interactive activities and games to educate children, parents, teachers and community members.

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...RespectED continued

RespectED programs & services

Stopping the cycle of abuse in our communities begins with knowledge

- **It's Not Your Fault** helps youth define abuse and neglect, understand why it occurs and how to get help or help a friend. This program has received the Seal and Certificate of Recommendation from the national Curriculum Services Canada.
- **Respect in Schools** & **Respect in Sport** are on-line programs from Respect Group Inc. that educate parents and adult leaders in the school and sport environment respectively on the prevention of abuse, bullying and harassment.

3. Promoting Healthy Dating Relationships for Youth Programs

- **Promoting Healthy Dating Relationships** examines healthy and unhealthy peer romantic relationships, focusing on dispelling stereotypes, and helps youth build communication and prevention skills.
- **Promoting Healthy Dating Relationships for Youth** helps adults examine the issues relating to youth relationship violence, defines sexual assault, emotional and physical abuse, and offers prevention strategies.

4. Prevention of Bullying & Harassment Programs

- **Beyond the Hurt** explores all aspects of bullying and peer harassment, interpersonal power issues, the rights and responsibilities of individuals, as well as prevention and intervention strategies. This program is delivered by youth, to youth.
- **Youth Peer Facilitator Training** equips youth to understand bullying and harassment and deliver Beyond the Hurt to their peers to help create a school environment that is respectful and safe for all young persons.
- **Beyond the Hurt** for adults explores the dynamics of bullying and peer harassment, and helps adults establish appropriate policies and guidelines to foster prevention and intervention.
- **Respect in the Workplace** is an online program of Respect Group Inc. that helps companies of all sizes, in any industry, to empower employees to understand and stop discrimination, harassment and workplace bullying.
- **Training programs** are available in each of RespectED's four program areas, and certify Prevention Educators to deliver RespectED programs. Both online and in-person options are available and can address many unique audiences.

Programs for Children · Programs for Youth · Programs for Adults

MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY

To order RespectED materials or to register for courses in RespectED's OnLine Learning Centre, please contact 1-888-307-7997 or wz-contactcentre@redcross.ca.

For more information on RespectED programs, please visit www.redcross.ca/respected or email respected@redcross.ca.

Since 1984, RespectED has educated more than 4 million children, youth and adults.

Canadian Red Cross

No violence against children is justifiable.
All violence against children is preventable.
~UNITED NATIONS STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

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Get Help

In cases of abuse, where can I go for help?

If you are in immediate danger or need urgent medical help:

Contact the police or ambulance services, by calling 9-1-1 or the emergency number for your community.

If you live in an area where 9-1-1 is not available, call the Operator by dialing 0, tell them it's an emergency and ask them to connect you with the nearest police service.

You can look for local emergency and crisis services in the first section of your phone book.

If you are being abused, or are concerned that an adult or child is being abused, help is available.

Child Protection Agencies investigate and intervene to ensure the safety and well-being of children who are vulnerable to abuse, neglect or exploitation. Although child welfare laws differ from one province and territory to another, they all make it clear that everyone has the duty to report known or suspected child maltreatment. Professionals who work with children and youth have an added responsibility to report.

Known or suspected abuse or neglect of a child must be reported to local child welfare agencies, provincial/territorial social service ministries or departments, or local police. For further information or if you need to report, the Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-Being website has a series of information sheets on provincial and territorial child welfare systems and a list of provincial and territorial child welfare contacts.

Counselling services for victims and perpetrators of family violence are provided by many community agencies. You can search the Canadian Register for Health Service Providers in Psychology website, by specialization, for therapists throughout Canada. For children and youth, the Kids Help Phone offers free, bilingual, phone and web counselling 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The National Clearinghouse on Family Violence also offers a series of national directories which list various programs and services in communities across the country.

Crisis lines/distress centres provide free and confidential support and referrals to a variety of services in your community. Telephone numbers for most crisis/distress centres are listed in the first few pages of your local telephone book. You can also access a list of crisis centres in Canada from here.

Health clinics and hospitals provide emergency and longer-term services to help victims recover from physical and psychological trauma. Some hospitals have sexual assault and domestic violence care treatment centres located in their emergency department to provide care to women, children or men who have experienced domestic violence or have been sexually assaulted. Services may include: emergency medical and nursing care, crisis intervention, forensic evidence collection, medical follow-up, and counselling.

Legal services are available to you if you need legal assistance in divorce or custody matters, or you need to obtain a restraining order. Ask your local shelter, community legal clinic, or community agency for the names of lawyers on their referral list with experience in the area of law that addresses your needs.

Lawyer Referral Services can also help you find a lawyer in your community. If you cannot afford a lawyer, contact your local Legal Aid office to find out if you can get a legal aid certificate. The Canadian Bar Association website contains links to Lawyer Referral Services across Canada. To find your local Legal Aid office, refer to the blue pages of your local telephone book or consult the Justice Canada Legal Aid Program webpage.

Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) organizations provide the Canadian public with the legal information they need to make informed decisions and participate effectively in the justice system. These organizations do not give "legal advice"; they provide information or referrals about various aspects of the law. PLEI organizations can be found in every province and territory in Canada. For more information on these organizations and their publications, visit the Justice Canada Public Legal Education and Information web page.

Police can help by investigating offences and making arrests where appropriate. Police apply for peace bonds to protect you if you have good reason to believe that someone will harm you or your children. They can also help you leave or take you to a shelter, connect you to a local victim services program, and provide information about other agencies that may be able to help. If you want to contact the police but the situation is not urgent, call the non-emergency number for police in your community.

Transition houses and shelters provide temporary, safe housing and services for those fleeing an abusive situation. To find a local transition house or shelter, look in the NCFV (directory) Transition Houses and Shelters for Abused Women in Canada or Programs and Services for Men Who Are or Have Been Victims of Violence. You can also visit Shelternet for a clickable map of shelters in Canada. For Aboriginal shelters in Canada, visit the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence.

Victim Services are delivered very differently across Canada depending on jurisdiction. Services for victims of crime can be delivered by police-based, system-based, court-based, and community-based victim services, volunteers, or by non-governmental organizations. For a description of the services offered by each province and territory, including links to provincial/territorial government Victim Services, visit the Department of Justice Policy Centre for Victim Issues and the Victims Services Directory.

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Lessons from Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Background Information about Childhood Sexual Abuse

Definitions

While the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is a criminal act, legal definitions of childhood sexual abuse vary across jurisdictions.

There is, however, wide agreement that childhood sexual abuse involves: (a) sexual acts with children and youth who lack the maturity and emotional and cognitive development to understand or to consent; and (b) "an 'abusive condition' such as coercion or a large age gap between participants, indicating lack of consensuality." In general, children and younger adolescents are unable to consent to sexual acts with adults because of their lack of maturity and relative lack of power.* An abusive condition implies a difference in power between the perpetrator and the victim. Children can also be abused by other children or adolescents who have more power by virtue of age, physical strength, life experience, intelligence, authority, or social location. The Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect tracked eight forms of child sexual abuse: penetration (penile, digital or object penetration of vagina or anus), attempted penetration, oral sex, fondling of the genitals, adult exposure of genitals to child, sexual exploitation (e.g., involving child in prostitution or pornography), sex talk (including proposition of a sexual nature and exposing a child to pornographic material), and voyeurism.

> Childhood sexual abuse survivors are our friends and neighbours, our colleagues, and sometimes even ourselves or members of our own families.

> An abusive condition implies a difference in power between the perpetrator and the victim.

An extreme and controversial type of abuse is ritual abuse, which has been defined as psychological, sexual, and/or physical assault on an unwilling human victim, committed by one or more individuals, as part of a prescribed ritual that achieves a specific goal or satisfies the perceived needs of their deity.

Childhood sexual abuse survivors

The great paradox of childhood sexual abuse is that, while it has become more prominent in the public consciousness, it remains shrouded in secrecy. Media coverage of high-profile disclosures and investigations provide evidence that childhood sexual abuse does exist – in "good" families and "trusted" institutions, at all socioeconomic levels, and among all racial and ethnic groups. Frequently we hear and read stories about survivors who are men and women from all walks of life – students, sports figures, clergy, entertainers, educators, police officers, judges, politicians, and health care practitioners. They are our friends and neighbours, our colleagues, and sometimes even ourselves or members of our own families. Despite this prevalence, most childhood sexual abuse survivors are invisible to us, particularly given that it is estimated that fewer than half disclose their abuse to anyone. Some are silent because they fear reprisal from their abusers; others worry they will not be believed or that they will be blamed or even punished. Still others say nothing because they harbour the erroneous belief that they are responsible for their abuse.

Perpetrators of childhood sexual abuse

Individuals who are sexually abused as children are, in adulthood, men and women of diverse ages, ethnicity, occupation, education, income level, and marital status. Most studies of sexual offending have focused on males as perpetrators.

Although the majority of perpetrators of childhood sexual abuse are male, recent research suggests that females engage in sexually abusive behaviour with children more often than has been previously recognized. Common to all perpetrators is that they have more physical strength, social power, and/or authority than their victims.

The most recent report of the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (p.59) found that, in contrast to physical abuse of children, non-parental relatives constituted the largest group of perpetrators (35%) of child sexual abuse. Other groups of perpetrators include the child's friend/peer (15%), stepfather (13%), biological father (9%), other acquaintances (9%), parent's boyfriend/girlfriend (5%), and biological mother (5%).

The dynamics of childhood sexual abuse

All sexual encounters with children are intended to meet the needs of the perpetrator, with little consideration for their effect on the child.

Some child abusers use physical force or explicit threats of harm to coerce their young victims into compliance, while others develop long-term relationships with their victims and carefully groom them with special attention or gifts. While childhood sexual abuse does not always involve physical injury, it is a violation of body, boundaries, and trust and is typically experienced as traumatic.

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Lessons from Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

While people who report a history of childhood sexual abuse are at increased risk for a wide range of difficulties in adulthood, studies suggest that "in the region of 20% to 40% of those describing

CSA [childhood sexual abuse] do not have measurable adult dysfunction that could be plausibly be related to abuse." A number of factors affect how a particular individual may respond to childhood sexual abuse. Some of these include the gender of the perpetrator, the number of perpetrators, the nature and closeness of the relationship between victim and perpetrator, the duration and frequency of the abuse, characteristics of the abuse itself (e.g., contact vs. noncontact, penetration, etc.), the use of threats or force, and the age of the victim at the time of the abuse.

Two pervasive myths - that males are rarely sexually abused and that childhood sexual abuse has little effect on males - deter boys and men from disclosing their abuse and, in turn, prevent society from legitimizing it as a problem.

Childhood sexual abuse and health

While not everyone who reports a history of childhood sexual abuse develops health problems, many live with a variety of chronic physical, behavioural, and psychological problems that bring them into frequent contact with health care practitioners. Because health care practitioners do not routinely inquire about childhood sexual abuse, its long-term effects are under recognized, its related health problems are misdiagnosed,and it is often not met with a sensitive, integrated treatment response. Childhood sexual abuse often co-occurs with other types of childhood adversity, including physical abuse, marital discord, separation from or loss of parents, parental psychopathology and/or substance abuse, and other types of abuse/neglect. Even when these other types of adversity are controlled for, childhood sexual abuse remains a powerful predictor of health problems in adulthood. It is suggested that the underlying mechanism for these difficulties is "that childhood sexual abuse causes disruptions in the child's sense of self, leading to difficulty in relating to others, inability to regulate reactions to stressful events, and other interpersonal and emotional challenges". Kathleen Kendall- Tackett describes behavioural, emotional, social, and cognitive pathways by which childhood abuse affects health, pointing out that "adult survivors can be affected by any or all of these, and the four types influence each other. Indeed, they form a complex matrix of interrelationships, all of which influence health." In addition, research in the fields of immunology, endocrinology, and psychosomatic medicine has demonstrated clear physiological relationships among stress, illness, and disease.

Table 1 lists the findings of a number of studies that have examined the correlation between histories of childhood sexual abuse and later health and function. Considerably more studies have examined these relationships in women, and when male survivors have been studied, the relationship between past abuse and the mental health of male survivors has been the primary focus. Guy Holmes, Liz Offen, and Glenn Waller argue that two pervasive myths – that males are rarely sexually abused and that childhood sexual abuse has little effect on males – deter boys and men from disclosing their abuse and, in turn, prevent society from legitimizing it as a problem. The increasing societal recognition of the prevalence and seriousness of sexual abuse of boys is likely to lead to further investigation of physical health correlates.

TABLE 1

Correlates of childhood sexual abuse and measures of health and function: A selected list of findings from research studies

In females, a history of childhood sexual abuse or a range of childhood traumas including sexual abuse is correlated with:
• poorer physical and mental health and a lower health-related quality of life than non-traumatized individuals • chronic pelvic pain • gastrointestinal disorders • intractable low back pain • chronic headache • greater functional disability, more physical symptoms, more physician-coded diagnoses, and more health risk behaviours, including driving while intoxicated, unsafe sex, and obesity • ischemic heart disease, cancer, chronic lung disease, skeletal fractures, and liver disease • high levels of dental fear • greater use of medical services • drug and alcohol use, self-mutilation, suicide, and disordered eating

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TABLE 1

Correlates of childhood sexual abuse and measures of health and function: A selected list of findings from research studies

In females, a history of childhood sexual abuse or a range of childhood traumas including sexual abuse is correlated with:
• adult onset of 14 mood, anxiety, and substance use disorders • higher rates of childhood mental disorders, personality disorders, anxiety disorders, and major affective disorders, but not schizophrenia • diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder
In males, a history of childhood sexual abuse is correlated with:
• anxiety, low self-esteem, guilt and shame, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, withdrawal and isolation, flashbacks, dissociative identity disorder, emotional numbing, anger and aggressiveness, hypervigilance, passivity and an anxious need to please others • adult onset of five mood, anxiety, and substance use disorders • substance abuse, self-injury, suicide, depression, rage, strained relationships, problems with self- concept and identity, and a discomfort with sex • increased risk of HIV • anxiety and confusion about sexual identity and sexual orientation • increased risk of "acting out" aggressively • contact with criminal justice system

Traumagenic Dynamics of Childhood Sexual Abuse

Some of the common problems experienced by childhood sexual abuse survivors are summarized in Table 6 using David Finkelhor and Angela Browne's conceptualization of the traumagenic dynamics of childhood sexual abuse. These dynamics describe the impact that abuse-related behaviours, events, and experiences can have on their victims.

TABLE 6

Traumagenic dynamics of childhood sexual abuse

Characteristic	Dynamics	Possible Manifestations
Traumatic Sexualization	• Rewarding a child for sexual behaviour may heighten the salience of sexual issues for him or her • Receiving attention and affection for sex can affect a survivor's ability to achieve a healthy sense of love and belonging • Sexual parts of the child may be fetishized • Abuse may impart misconceptions about sexuality (e.g., sexual identity, sexual orientation, sexual behaviour, and sexual morality) • Sexual activities may become conditioned to negative emotions and memories, creating an aversion to sex or intimacy	• Avoidance of all things sexual • Preoccupation with sexual matters or compulsive sexual behaviours • Precocious sexual activity Aggressive sexual behaviours • Promiscuity • Prostitution (making use of or working in the sex trade) • Sexual dysfunctions (e.g., lack of desire, difficulty with sexual arousal, inability to experience orgasm, and avoidance of sexual intimacy)
Betrayal	• Childhood sexual abuse manipulates a child's vulnerability, violates the expectation that others will provide care and protection, and may interfere with the ability to trust • The child's autonomy and wellbeing are disregarded, which may affect the sense of self • Deep-seated guilt and shame develop because children believe something bad about them caused the abuse • Profound sense of grief over lost innocence or the "perfect" or "normal" family; depression • Extreme anxiety or fear, which engenders a sense of dependency	• Overdependence or clinginess • Vulnerability to subsequent abuse and exploitation • Failure to accurately judge the trustworthiness or motives of others, leading to subsequent abuse and exploitation and/or inability to protect one's own children from abuse • Social withdrawal, isolation, and/or avoidance of intimate relationships • Chronic relationship diffi culties • "Acting out" behaviours (e.g., aggression, delinquency, risk-taking, etc.)

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TABLE 6

Traumagenic dynamics of childhood sexual abuse

Characteristic	Dynamics	Possible Manifestations
Stigmatization	• Abuser(s) and others blame or denigrate the victim engendering a sense of shame or guilt • The abuser and others pressure child for secrecy • The victim feels "damaged," "abnormal," "bad," which may contribute to a distorted sense of self and lowered self-esteem	• Dysphoria or chronic depression • Stigmatization, isolation, and marginalization may contribute to substance abuse • Criminal behaviour • Failure to care for oneself (e.g., risk-taking behaviours, poor hygiene, poor health practices) • Self-harm or self-mutilation
Powerlessness	• Unwanted invasion of one's body or personal space can interfere with the establishment and maintenance of healthy boundaries and increase risk of repeated victimization • Abuser(s) may use violence, threats, trickery, or bribery to involve their victim • If others do not believe and respond appropriately to disclosure of abuse, an individual may develop a lowered sense of efficacy • Some victims develop a high need for personal control and may even identify with the abuser	• Hyper-arousal (i.e., chronic anxiety, phobias, tendency to startle easily, irritability, poor sleep) • Intrusion (e.g., flashbacks during waking states, traumatic nightmares during sleep) • Constriction (dissociation to endure danger that one is unable to fight off or escape) - alters perception, sensation, and time sense and may result in avoidance of reminders of the trauma, emotional numbing/blunting, detachment, and an inability to experience joy • Stress-related disease and illness; chronic and/or vague somatic problems

Adapted from Finklehor and Browne with permission of D. Finkelhor.

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Excerpt from

Sexual Abuse, What Happens When You Tell

A Guide for Children and Parents

Should I tell someone I've been sexually abused?

Yes. It's a good idea to tell an adult if someone is sexually abusing you, or has abused you in the past. It's a good idea because the person you tell may be able to help make the abuse stop.

Telling is also a good idea because a bad secret can make you feel bad. Letting the secret out will make you feel better. But you have to think about who to tell. You want to be sure that the person you're going to tell can help you or will want to help you. This booklet will help you to decide who is the best person to tell.

Who should I tell?

Here are people you might tell:

Your mother is usually a good person to tell. Lucy told her mother that her stepfather had been sexually abusing her. Then Lucy's mother protected her by making the stepfather leave the house. It doesn't always work that way, sometimes you have to tell someone else. Here's an example:

Carla's mother had a boyfriend who used to visit every weekend. He would sit Carla in his lap and put his hand down her pants when her mother was busy in the kitchen. Carla told her mother but her mother told her not to worry about it. She said the boyfriend would soon get tired of doing it. When the boyfriend didn't stop, Carla told her teacher instead. Her teacher reported the abuse to a social worker.

The problem was that Carla's mother was afraid that her boyfriend would go away if she complained to him. So she put the boyfriend first and Carla second.

Most mothers are like Lucy's mother and will protect their children. But if your mother won't protect you, then you have to go to someone else like a teacher or a social worker.

Your father may also be a good person to tell. Here's an example:

When Shawn came back from summer camp, he was very quiet and wasn't sleeping properly. His father asked him what was wrong. Shawn told his father that one of the camp leaders kept getting into bed with him, and that he never wanted to go back to camp. Shawn's father was very understanding. He told Shawn that the camp leader had behaved badly, and that it wasn't Shawn's fault. He reported the camp leader to the police. Then he took Shawn to a counsellor so he could talk about his bad feelings.

But fathers don't always behave the way Shawn's father did. Here's another example:

When Robert went to the washroom at the park, a man showed his penis to him. Then he asked Robert to touch his penis. Robert ran home. When he told his parents what had happened his father shouted at everybody. He told Robert the park was full of 'weirdos', and that he was going to sue the Parks Board. Then he told Robert to describe the man. He said he would go to the park washroom himself with a baseball bat. He told Robert he would get a spanking if he ever came home late from the park again. By the time his father had finished shouting, Robert wished he had never told. Two days later, Robert's father told him to forget the whole thing, and not mention it again. That made Robert feel confused. Fortunately Robert's mother had a different response. She listened to Robert, then phoned the police. The police told her that several parents had complained about the same man. They said they would try to keep an eye on the park washroom.

Shawn's father and Robert's father behaved very differently. If you think your father is going to behave like Robert's father, you should tell someone else.

You could tell your friend's parents. This is a good idea if you think they will believe you and help you.

You could tell another family member. Many children who are sexually abused will tell a grandparent or aunt or uncle. Grandparents may not be as busy as your parents, and may have more time to listen.

You could tell someone you trust at school, like a teacher, counsellor or nurse.

It's important to tell an adult if you've been sexually abused, but you have to think about who to tell. Ask yourself who you think will help you and then tell that person.

What is the person I tell supposed to do?

When you tell an adult that you've been sexually abused, that person is supposed to tell either a police officer or social worker. The law says that adults must do this. We have this law because we believe that all children have a right to be protected from sexual abuse.

What will social services do?

When the adult you tell calls social services, a social worker will write down the details of the phone call.

A social worker may interview you in a place where you feel safe. The social worker is going to ask you what happened. If you have been sexually abused in your home, the social worker will want to interview you somewhere else. This is why social workers do many of their interviews in schools. Someone at the school will find a quiet place where the social worker can interview you in private.

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Excerpt from

Sexual Abuse, What Happens When You Tell

A Guide for Children and Parents

The interview may go something like this:

The social worker will ask you to tell the story in your own words. The social worker will ask you to talk only about things you know – not what someone else told you to say. If you don't know the answer to a question, just say, "I don't know." If there's something you don't remember, just say, "I don't remember."

Sometimes you think you have to have an answer for every question. Answering a social worker's questions isn't like an exam. You don't have to have an answer for everything and there is no right or wrong answer.

If you feel afraid to answer questions, the social worker may ask you what you're afraid of. This question is important because the abuser may have said that something bad would happen if you told. The social worker can reassure you that you were right to tell and that you don't have to be afraid anymore.

At the end of the interview the social worker may ask you if you know about any other children who were sexually abused by the same person. The social worker may also ask if anyone else has ever abused you.

The law says that social services must protect you if you need it. Here's an example: 11 year old Michelle was sexually abused by her 15 year old foster brother, Marco. The police charged Marco with the abuse, but it was four months before he would go to court. Social services wanted to be sure that nothing else happened to Michelle in the meantime, so they placed Marco in a group home with other teenagers. He stayed there until a social worker said he could go home. Michelle was sad because she missed Marco, but she felt much better when she knew that he was going to get some counselling.

Do you remember Lucy's story? Lucy's mother was protecting her by keeping her stepfather out of the house. That meant she didn't need social services to protect her.

Do you remember Carla's story? Carla's mother put her boyfriend first and didn't protect Carla. Social Services placed Carla in a foster home until her mother learned how to look after her better. The social worker may also arrange for you to have a medical examination either at your family doctor's office or at a hospital. Most children are not physically hurt by sexual abuse unless the abuser has penetrated (pushed his penis or an object into the vagina or the bum). The social worker will want to be sure you are okay.

The social worker may also arrange for you to see a counsellor. The counsellor will be trained to work with children who have experienced sexual abuse and will be seeing other children like you. If you have been sexually abused you might feel guilty about it even though it wasn't your fault. The counsellor will help you understand your bad feelings, and to understand other mixed-up feelings. The counsellor can also help you understand what happens in court if you are asked to testify (tell a judge your story in court).

What will the police do?

The police will want to interview you if you've told someone that you have been sexually abused. This is because sexual abuse is a crime, and the job of the police is to catch criminals. The police understand that it can be frightening for you to be questioned.

Sometimes they may interview you when you're with the social worker. Sometimes the police can't do the interview with the social worker. Often they will try to fi nd the right offi cer to interview you. Most cities have at least one police officer who is especially good at talking to children. The police want to find out if there is enough evidence to charge the abuser with a sexual offence.

The police may make a recording of their interview with you. This process makes sure there is a good record of what you've said in case you forget. It might even be used in court if the abuser is charged. After your interview, the police will give the information to the Crown Prosecutor. The prosecutor is a lawyer for the state, who is on your side if you have to go to court.

The job of prosecutors is to look at the evidence you have given the police. If there's enough, they or the police may decide to lay charges against the person who abused you. This means that the person who abused you will have to go to court to answer the charges.

What will other people do when I tell?

Your parents. Parents can be angry and sad, and have mixed feelings just like you do. Sometimes they have problems of their own that will make it hard for them to help you. Most parents want to help and will try to do their best. If your parents don't believe you; are mad because you told; blame you or tell you to forget it; or drink or take drugs a lot, you may have to get help from someone else.

Brothers and sisters. Your brothers and sisters will help you most of the time, but it can be hard for them too. Sometimes an older sister or brother will feel ashamed if a younger sister or brother has been sexually abused. They may think they should have been able to protect you. If your brother or sister was also abused, they may have confused feelings just like you. If the abuser is a family member, he may have abused only you. If that person bought you special gifts, your brothers and sisters might be jealous of you.

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Other family members.

Your family may not like it if another family member is the abuser and has to go to jail. Also if there is one abuser in the family there may be others. Other family members might take sides with the abuser instead of helping you.

The abuser.

After you have told the police you may wonder about what the abuser will do. You may worry that the abuser will try to talk to you or threaten you. This could happen. If it does, tell the police. There are things they can do to keep you safe.

What happens if I have to go to court?

Charges may be laid against the person who sexually abused you and if that happens you may have to go to court to answer questions (testify). When you go to court to testify it is called a trial.

Trials are expensive and take a long time. Prosecutors do not like to have a trial unless they think there's a good chance of winning. That means they need lots of evidence. When the person who has abused you has also abused a lot of other children, the prosecutor may think there is a 'good case'.

You are not responsible for what happens after charges have been laid. All you can do is tell the truth and try to speak clearly if you are asked to testify. The crown prosecutor will help you. The defense lawyer is on the abuser's side. The judge and/or jury are in the middle and will try to decide if the abuser is really guilty or not. During the trial the person who abused you is called the accused. The accused is innocent until the judge or jury decides whether he/she is guilty.

The crown prosecutor will meet with you to talk about testifying in court. If there are victim services workers in your community, they can also support you through the court process.

What is the good part about going to court?

It might sound as though going to court isn't worth it. Most children who have been to court say it's worth it, even if the abuser doesn't go to jail. They think it's worth it because they fi nd out that a lot of adults believe their story and are willing to spend time helping them.

Another good thing about going to court is that you have a chance to learn about the legal system. A counsellor or your parents can help you prepare for going to court using books and other information.

What is the worst part about going to court?

Most children who have had to go to court say that waiting is the worst part, because the legal system is slow. Sometimes the trial date is put off for months, and sometimes the case is dropped.

Another thing that can happen is that the judge finds the accused 'Not Guilty.' This doesn't seem fair when you know what the abuser did to you. 'Not Guilty' doesn't mean it didn't happen – it just means that there wasn't enough evidence or proof to convict the abuser in court.

Is telling really worth all the trouble?

Now you know that if you tell an adult that you have been sexually abused, a lot of things can happen afterwards:

- You may be interviewed by a social worker and/or the police whose job is to protect children and investigate a crime.
- You may see a doctor just to make sure you're okay.
- It may be helpful to talk to a counsellor whose job is to help you with whatever is bothering you.
- Telling may upset some of the people in your family.
- If the abuser is charged you may go to court to testify and that could take a long time.

Most children who have told about being sexually abused say it's worth it because the abuse stopped and they are not alone with the problem anymore.

Most adults who are getting counselling today for sexual abuse that happened when they were children say: "I only wish I could have told someone when I was a child."

The choice is yours. No one else can decide for you, but a lot of people can help you after you've decided to tell.

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Provincial Child Abuse Protocol 2006

Introduction

The Provincial Child Abuse Protocol provides guidelines for the reporting and investigation of child abuse and neglect. The Protocol is intended to provide assistance to a network of professionals including child protection workers, law enforcement officials, school personnel, doctors and other health care providers. The overriding goal of the Protocol is to ensure the safety and well-being of Saskatchewan children.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to working cooperatively with professionals and community organizations to enhance child abuse reporting and investigation. This means working together to prevent child abuse and neglect whenever possible and, when it happens, reporting it to the proper authorities.

The Child and Family Services Act provides that "every person who has reasonable grounds to believe that a child is in need of protection shall report the information to a child protection worker (Department of Community Resources or First Nations Child and Family Services Agency child protection worker) or peace officer (police/RCMP officer)".

After a report is made, child protection staff and police/RCMP officers are legallyresponsible for the investigation of child abuse cases. Child protection staff investigate to determine if there are reasonable grounds to find the child in need of protection. The police/RCMP investigate to determine if a criminal offence has been committed and if there are reasonable grounds to lay charges under *The Criminal Code of Canada.* Other professionals play an important role in assisting with the investigation, supporting the child during and after the investigation, and providing follow-up services to the child and family.

Purpose

The Provincial Child Abuse Protocol provides a framework for a network of local service providers to work together to

- recognize child abuse;
- ensure children are protected and supported, and their families are assisted throughout the investigation process;
- develop a coordinated and collaborative approach for reporting and investigating child abuse;
- create a guide for developing and implementing local reporting and investigating procedures; and
- ensure groups or individuals working on behalf of children are aware of the irresponsibilities.

Guiding Principles

The Provincial Child Abuse Protocol is based on the following guiding principles:

- Suspected child abuse or child neglect must be treated seriously and must be reported to a child protection worker under The Child and Family Services Act or to the police.
- Professionals and organizations working with children must develop protocols to ensure prompt reporting of suspected cases of child abuse or child neglect.
- When a child discloses abuse, particular care will be taken to ensure that the child has the support he or she needs upon making a disclosure.
- A child's disclosure of abuse shall be treated as a serious complaint and investigated with the same concern as an adult's complaint.
- An immediate response to allegations of child abuse will be provided.
- Complaints of child abuse require a coordinated, team approach to investigation, assessment, and any necessary intervention, treatment and follow-up.
- Sharing information is essential to ensure good decisions are made about the protection, safety, and well-being of the child, and the protection of the public.
- Where there is an assessed need for treatment or support services for the child, the suspected abuser, or any family member, services should be provided.
- As physical or sexual abuse, severe neglect, and sexual exploitation of children are criminal acts, abusers must be held accountable for their actions, while treatment may assist in preventing further abuse.

Roles and Responsibilities

All Agencies and Community Members

In Saskatchewan, all members of the public have a duty to report situations where they believe a child is being abused or neglected to a child protection worker under *The Child and Family Services Act* or a police officer. A child protection worker under *The Child and Family Services Act* includes child protection staff employed by the Department of Community Resources or First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies.

The duty to report applies in spite of any claim of confidentiality or professional privilege other than solicitor/client privilege or Crown privilege. The Code of Professional Conduct; Chapter IV - "Confidential Information"; Guiding Principle #11 states:

"Disclosure of information necessary to prevent a crime will be justified if the lawyer has reasonable grounds for believing that a crime is likely to be committed and will be mandatory when the anticipated crime is one involving violence against the person."

Failure to report is an offence under *The Child and Family Services Act.*

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Professionals and community agencies will often provide assessment, treatment and support services to children and their families. They will be required to share information with other professionals and individuals involved in protecting and planning for the child.

Community Resources

The Child and Family Services Act establishes the mandate for Community Resources that includes:

- Receiving and investigating reports of children in need of protection from abuse or neglect;
- Assessment of a family's ability to protect the child;
- Provision of support services to children and families to maintain the family wherever it is safe for the child;
- Provision of out-of-home care where support services to the family cannot provide forthe child's safety;
- Provision of services to children and youth sexually exploited through prostitution, pursuant to *The Emergency Protection of Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Act*; and,
- Sharing information with police.

Saskatchewan Justice

Saskatchewan Justice is responsible for the administration of justice in Saskatchewan, including:

- Prosecution services in criminal law matters, including the preparation of witnessesfor trials;
- General legal advice to the Province of Saskatchewan;
- Supervision of policing services;
- Administration of the provincial Victims Services Programs, to provide assistance and support to victims involved in the legal process; and,
- Court services to the public.

Corrections and Public Safety, Young Offender Programs Division

Corrections and Public Safety (CPS), Young Offender Programs Branch is responsible for custody and community-based young offender services in the province. The role of youth workers includes case planning, preparation of court ordered reports, providing necessary structure and support so a young person is able to successfully complete his or her sentence and reduce offending behavior, and working with families and communities to support youth in conflict with the law. In instances where child abuse is suspected or has been found to exist, the Young Offender Programs Branch has a responsibility to:

- Report suspected cases of child abuse in accordance with *The Child and Family Services Act*;
- Cooperate with police by providing information on the criminal abuse of children;
- Provide assistance and support to investigations of child abuse;
- Monitor the progress of the youth, and share information regarding the youth as required throughout the investigation, assessment and treatment of the youth and his/her family; and,
- Provide emotional support to the youth.

Police

Municipal police services and the RCMP are primarily responsible for public safety and have a responsibility to:

- Receive reports of a child in need of protection and potential offences against a child;
- Investigate alleged criminal acts;
- Lay criminal charges;
- Provide an emergency response to children in need of protection; and,
- Provide crime prevention and victim services.

Saskatchewan Health and Health Professionals

The role of health professionals, including medical professionals, medical social workers, mental health professionals and public health nurses is to:

- Report suspected cases of child abuse in accordance with *The Child and Family Services Act*
- Cooperate with police by providing information on the criminal abuse of children;
- Provide assistance and support to child abuse investigations;
- Provide physical and mental health assessments of children who have been or are suspected of having been abused;
- Provide support to the abused child and family during and after the child abuse investigation;
- Provide physical and mental health treatment and consultation to alleged victims and perpetrators of child abuse and their families; and,
- Monitor progress of child abuse victims and perpetrators.

Schools and Education Professionals

The role of school personnel, including teachers,

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administrators, counselors, social workers, supervisory personnel, parent volunteers, paraprofessionals and support staff is to:

- Report suspected cases of child abuse in accordance with *The Child and Family Services Act;*
- Cooperate with police by providing information on the criminal abuse of children;
- Cooperate with other professionals involved in the investigation of child abuse;
- Monitor the progress of the child, and share information regarding the child as required throughout the investigation, assessment, and treatment of the child and his orher family; and,
- Provide academic, social and emotional support to the child.

First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies

First Nations Bands and Tribal Councils have developed First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Agencies to provide child welfare services to families who are living on reserve. These Agencies have the same authority to administer the provisions of *The Child and Family Services Act* as Community Resources and are responsible for the following services for children, youth and families living on reserve:

- Receiving and investigating reports of children in need of protection from abuse or neglect;
- Assessment of a family's ability to protect the child;
- Provision of support services to children and families to maintain the family wherever it is safe for the child;
- Provision of out-of-home care where support services to the family cannot provide forthe child's safety;
- Provision of services to children and youth sexually exploited through prostitution, pursuant to *The Emergency Protection of Victims of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Act*; and,
- Sharing information with police.

Supports for First Nation and Métis Children

First Nation Child and Family Service Agencies, Bands and Métis Organizations offer another means of providing support to Aboriginal children and families. They can provide support in terms of language, culture, Elders, healing services and family workers. The investigating team should consider contacting the appropriate First Nation Child and Family Service Agency, Band office or Métis organization (see pages 80-84) where areport of abuse or neglect involves a First Nation or Métis child to ensure that the child has access to all possible supports and services.

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

In 1998, the Province of Saskatchewan and the Métis Family and Community Justice Services (MFCJS), an affiliate of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a process for communication between the MFCJS and the Province on social programs. The MOU will help to chart future relationships between the province and the MFCJS and guide discussions about the delivery of services and programs.

Métis organizations are currently delivering services through Friendship Centres, Métis Addiction Councils, and Aboriginal Family Violence Programs (see pages 83-84 forcontact information). Examples of other services include, parent aide/family support workers, child nutrition, child development, respite services, justice and general family counselling.

Local Child Abuse Protocol Committees

In order to promote consistency and coordination of child abuse investigations, the Departments of Community Resources, Justice, Corrections and Public Safety, Health, and Learning, the police, regional health authorities, school divisions, and other community agencies may designate personnel as members of local Child Abuse Protocol Committees. First Nations Agencies, local Tribal Councils, Bands or local Métis Family and Community Justice Committees should be invited to participate as members of local committees.

The role of local Child Abuse Committees is to:

- Develop detailed Local Function Statements as described below;
- Meet at least quarterly to discuss problems, issues and opportunities related to coordination and investigation of child abuse/neglect, and to review the management of problem or difficult child abuse cases; and,
- Ensure that all staff involved in child protection matters are fully informed about the Provincial Child Abuse Protocol.

Problem or difficult child abuse cases may be presented by any member to the local Committee for review. The purpose of this review is to examine the local systems that respond to child abuse cases, not to manage individual cases. The results of such a review could lead to changes to local child abuse procedures or the Provincial Protocol. Any member of the Committee may request the assistance of, or make a referral to, another member of the Committee as appropriate.

Local Function Statements

Within the context of the Provincial Child Abuse Protocol, specific local procedures called Local Function Statements are developed by the local Child Abuse Protocol Committee in each region of the province for the

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investigation, treatment and follow-up of child abuse.In particular, the Local Function Statements will identify the persons or agency to be contacted and the steps to be taken to investigate reports of abuse and neglect. The Local Function Statements should consider all of the following areas when developing local responses:

(a) Reporting and investigating child abuse;

(b) Involvement of schools and agencies that work with children;

(c) Guidelines for conducting interviews with children;

(d) Interviewing children and youth with disabilities and conditions affecting communication; and,

(e) Videorecording of children's evidence; and, information sharing.

Local Function Statements are to be approved by the person in charge of the regional or head office of the participating departments and agencies. Once they are approved, ongoing evaluations of these procedures should commence.

Sharing Information

While it is recognized that children, youth and families have the right to privacy, there are instances when information must be shared to ensure their well-being. The law requires that child abuse situations be reported to Community Resources, First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies or a police officer. In cases of suspected child abuse and neglect, the child's or youth's right to safety is primary.

Sharing of information among the professionals involved is essential to maximize satisfactory outcomes during an investigation, assessment, treatment and follow-up of a child abuse case.

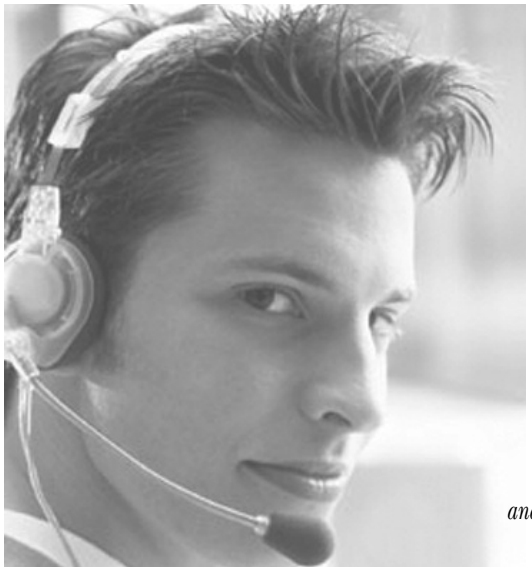
Information is shared within an ethic of trust and respect and an understanding that each professional will act appropriately with the confidential information.

Feedback to the professional making the child abuse report on the progress and outcomes of the investigation is critical. In many cases, this professional is responsible for monitoring and supporting the child during the investigation and during treatment (e.g., schools should be advised promptly if a child has been apprehended and of the plan for the child).

Guidelines and procedures for sharing information at the various stages of the investigation, assessment, treatment, and follow-up must be developed by the Local Child Abuse Protocol Committees and should be reflected in the Local Function Statements.

Note: In May 1997, Saskatchewan Human Services Integration Forum published: *Sharing Information to Improve Services for Children, Youth and Families*: A Guide to the Legislation. The handbook was developed to encourage and support human service providers in the appropriate sharing of information on a "need to know" basis. The guide contains principles for sharing information, information on legislation and practice to enable information sharing on a "need to know" basis, and rules about disclosure of information. The handbook has been approved by government and meets requirements under *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and The Health Information Protection Act (HIPA).*

The Sharing Information Handbook is available at www.Publications.gov.sk.ca.



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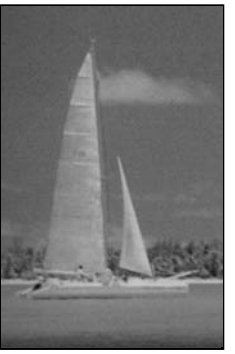

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Special Committee
To Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children through the Sex Trade

excerpt from
INTERIM REPORT

June 28, 2000
1st Session of the 24th Legisature
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

I. Committee Principles

The Committee has developed a set of key principles to help guide members throughtheir research, deliberations, and public hearings. The principles are as follows:

1. **Every child is everyone's responsibility.** The sexual abuse and exploitation of children is everyone's responsibility. It is not just an issue the government needs to address nor is it isolated to certain cultures or classes of society. To truly work towards the prevention of this abuse, every citizen of this province needs to take responsibility.
2. **The involvement of children in the sex trade is child abuse.** The Committee does not refer to this issue as child prostitution as it clearly is a form of child sexual abuse. The Committee recognizes and agrees with the voices of Canadian children and youth who spoke at the March 1998 International Summit on Sexually Exploited Youth held in Victoria, British Columbia. Youth who spoke at this summit strongly felt that the term "child prostitution" is not an appropriate reference to this type of sexual abuse.
3. **Zero tolerance is our goal.** Our goal is to eliminate the involvement of children in the sex trade in Saskatchewan. It is the Committee's hope that public awareness will be increased through our provincial hearings, which will in turn have an effect on Saskatchewan's tolerance towards this type of abuse. The Committee promotes zero tolerance towards johns and pimps who perpetuate this abuse, as well as towards others who contribute to the sexual exploitation of children.

> *"The first time I started working on the streets I was nine. Why did I do it? To support myself. I had no one to depend on. I was somebody ...*
> *I was an adult trapped in a nine-year-old's body. I had no respect for myself. I had no respect for anybody."(Youth, March 20, 2000, pg. 179)*

II. Witness Presentations

Phase one of the Committee's hearings was a very intense and emotionally draining experience for each Member, the staff of the Committee and for the participants. First-hand accounts from youth and adults who were sexually exploited on the streets as children were especially painful. The Committee is truly grateful for their courage incoming forward and for sharing their heart-wrenching experiences. Their detailed and graphic evidence, based upon their life stories, reflected the extreme seriousness of the sexual exploitation of children in our communities.

> *"She had been locked in a walk-in freezer in the back of a (Calgary) pizza shop. She had been on her back for 16 straight hours. She had sex with 42 men. ...this is not intended to shock you, ladies and gentlemen, this is intended to inform you of what is going on in this city and in Saskatoon and in every major city in Canada. This is our town after dark." (Retired Staff Sergeant Ross MacInnes, Calgary Police Services, March 22, 2000, pg. 241)*

The Committee heard that there are several root causes that lead up to the sexual abuseand exploitation of children:

- Issues related to poverty: low income, welfare dependency, poor housing, poor nutrition, etc.
- Abuse issues: emotional, physical, sexual.
- Family dysfunction and violence.
- Lack of cultural identity: residential school syndrome, loss of traditional parenting skills, racism etc.

> *"The stuff that went on in the house was unreal. You can't even call it abuse; it's called torture."(Youth, March 20, 2000, pg. 187)*

The issues as to why children end up on the street in the first place were also addressed. One reason all youth and outreach staff consistently raised was the extreme lack of self-esteem that these children suffer from. Ill-defined moral values, self-loathing, self-hatred, and high susceptibility to peer pressure, abuse, and exploitation were identified inthe hearings as additional causes.

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Special Committee
To Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children through the Sex Trade

excerpt from
INTERIM REPORT

June 28, 2000
1st Session of the 24th Legisature
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

...Special Committee to Prevent the Abuse of Exploitation of Children through the sex Trade continued.

> *"Many sexually exploited youth are still suffering from oppression,and poverty, and self-esteem. All it takes is for one person to make adifference in one person's life." (Youth, March 20, 2000, pg. 179)*

> *"You grow up around that. You see, oh, look at the nice clothes they have ... . They have money all the time, they have joints. Oh wow, they're drinking all the time. Obviously you're going to want some part of that." (Youth, March 20, 2000, pg. 191)*

The Committee also heard various estimates on the extent of the problem in both Saskatoon and Regina. Saskatoon Police estimated as of January 2000 and in the previous sixteen months that there were a total of 61 youth under the age of 18, and eight under the age of 14, who were sexually exploited on the street. Documentation submitted from Egadz Outreach in Saskatoon indicated that the problem is much more significant. Egadz statistics for the 1999-2000 fiscal year indicate that there were 261 youth who were sexually exploited in Saskatoon. Broken down further, these included 58 female children 14 years and younger, 197 females aged 15-18 years old, and six males aged 15-18 years old.

Witnesses from Regina presented statistics to the Committee which indicate that at any given time there are about 300 children who are being sexually exploited and abused on the street, particularly in the core area of North Central Regina.

> *"We have at one time looked at all the prostitutes that we have charged in Regina and they are up around the number of 900.... And I would guess, or take an estimated guess, that one-third of those are under 18." (Detective Constable Sheree Gay, Regina Police Services, March 7, 2000, pg. 142)*

Given these numbers, it became clear to the Committee that there is a much larger number of sexual predators seeking these children out.

E. Intervention, Outreach, and Safe Refuge

It was apparent from the hearings that outreach programming is an effective and vitally important intervention process to help children and youth exit "the life". Witnesses testified that outreach staff invest inthese children over the long term and never give up the support required to help children, youth, and their families to choose healthy lifestyles. The Committee was told there are several effective outreach programs currently operating within Saskatchewan.

> *"And I kept going back to the streets until basically somebody suggested ... that I should see this woman (outreach) ... and she knew how it was like because before I thought that nobody was really like me. I thought that I was like ... I thought I was so useless to this world." (Youth, March 7, 2000, pg. 126)*

Safe house programming was again identified as an important intervention process to help children and youth exit the street. A safe house, such as the one operated by the Saskatoon Tribal Council in Saskatoon, provides children at risk with a safe refuge from the street. It provides an opportunity for children who have suffered abuse on the street to restore eating and sleeping patterns, have medical needs addressed, and receive counseling and other forms of assistance. A safe house is regarded as an important avenue by which to establish a relationship with a child to begin the process of helping him or her leave the street life.

> *"We need to have more Aboriginal families involved infoster care ... A lot of Aboriginal families are interested in taking care of Aboriginal children ... And these are good people; they will provide good homes."(Gloria Swindler, Program Coordinator, Saskatoon Tribal Council Safe House, March 20, 2000, pg. 175-176)*

A few of the presenters felt the foster care system could also be an asset if more Aboriginal homes were recruited. It was their view that Aboriginal children in care of the

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...Special Committee to Prevent the Abuse of Exploitation of Children through the sex Trade continued.

province would be less likely to run from the system if they were in a home where they felt comfortable. The current foster care system was viewed as not an adequate resource for this client group.

F. Education and Awareness

> *"... educate our children from a very small age. Because if you educate them in theright way ... knowledge is power."(Youth, March 20, 2000, pg. 187)*

The Committee heard testimony from the Saskatchewan Department of Social Services and community groups regarding awareness work that has been done to date including poster campaigns, educational pamphlets, and a sign campaign in the stroll areas of Saskatoon. Another consistent message the Committee heard was that education and awareness is a necessary and important approach to take in the prevention of the sexual exploitation of children through the sex trade. Many presenters felt children who are potentially at risk and their families need to be educated about the dangers associated with street culture. It was recommended that the issue be included in their school curriculum to give them knowledge of street dangers and the importance of making healthy choices.

Community awareness is also vital to help curb the problem and effectively addresses the issue. The Committee was informed that the general public and community groups need to be made aware of current federal and provincial legislation which address the sexual exploitation of children. It was felt that the scope of the problem, including the demographics of children and offenders, needs to be communicated extensively and regularly to the general public.

> *"It needs to be on TV, it needs to be in magazines, you know, in Chanel and all those places. People need to know that this is happening, and yes you have to recognize it, and yes it has to stop."(Youth, March 20, 2000, pg. 198)*

The Committee heard that community education and awareness is most effective when coordinated through partnerships of stakeholders. Participants advised that service delivery, education, and awareness need to be comprehensive, integrated, and co-operative between stakeholders as diverse as government departments, police services, social agencies, First Nations and Metis groups, neighborhoods, educators and the general public.

> *"It is imperative that agencies and organizations work in co-operation. A multi-faceted strategy is needed to combat the multidimensional issue of child sexual abuse."(Sandi LeBoeuf, Co-Chair and Executive Director, Saskatoon Tribal Council Family Centre, March 20, 2000, pg. 154)*

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Advertisers' Index

18-WHEELS TRAINING SERVICES 48
3 - D DISTRIBUTORS LTD. 46
A A TRIFON'S FAMILY RESTAURANT 38
A-1 POWER DOOR LTD 46
AAA COLLISION PLUS 98
ABSOLUTE MAIDS SASKATOON 56
ABTEC CONSTRUCTION LTD 106
ACE FIBRETECH LTD 92
ADVANCED DENTURE CLINIC 54
AFFINITY INSURANCE SERVICES 54
AG-RAY SEEDS & PROCESSING 52
AIM ELECTRIC LTD 32
ALBERT NORTH AUTO 62
ALCON PLASTICS CORP 36
ALFA ENGINEERING LTD 78
ALL HAUL COURIER 20
ALPHA MERCY HAVEN B & B 58
AMACHEWESPEMAWIN CO-OP ASSN 46
AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION 102
AMEC 96
ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA 76
ARMADA INN MOTEL/ PRAIRIE MOON INN & SUITES . . . 60
ARMY NAVY & AIRFORCE VETERANS IN CANADA . . 108
ARNIE'S GUNS 114
ASHTON DEVELOPMENTS INC 74
ASSOCATION DES PARENTS FRANSASKOIS 108
AVONLEA CO-OP 24
B & G ACCOUNTING & INCOME TAX 96
B A ROBINSON CO LTD 82
B R GAFFNEY & ASSOC LTD 50
BACKLIN'S AMBULANCE 40
BAR U FARMS LTD 102
BARRON'S FUNERAL CHAPEL LTD 40
BARRY'S EAVESTROUGHING & EXTRSLTD. . 106
BATCO MANUFACTURING LTD 86
BEEVER'S ELECTRIC LTD 34
BEITEL'S INSURANCE 44
BEL-AIR GARDENS 32
BICKNER TRUCKING LTD 112
BIT SERVICE CO LTD 48
BLS ASPHALT INC. 104
BOB MAURER'S CONSTRUCTION LTD 114
BOB'S ELECTRIC CONTRACTING 70
BOURGAULT INDUSTRIES LTD. 70
BOURGAULT TILLAGE TOOLS LTD 112
BRAKE & DRIVE SYSTEMS LTD 84
BRICK N BLOCK MASONRY CONSTRUCTION LTD . . 108
BRIDES N BELLES 38
BRIDGE CITY AUTO SPORTS 102
BRIDGE CITY MECHANICAL LTD 100
BRIONS HAULING 30
BRIT'S CLEANING SOLUTIONS 106
BROCK SALVAGE LTD 58
BROOK'S TRUCKING 82
BROS EAVESTROUGHING 104
BROWNLEE FARM EQUIPMENT 113
BUILDERS' PLUMBING & HEATING 60
BUYINSURANCESALVAGE.COM 98
BUYKLES STORES LTD 108
C & T COLLISION REPAIRS 92
C & W OILFIELD CONSTRUCTION 64
C A A SASKATCHEWAN 32
C D MAC SALES & SOLUTIONS 114
CANADIAN CORPS - COMMISSIONAIRES 48
CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION . . 96
CANADIAN TIRE 32
CANADIAN WESTERN BANK 94
CASTLETON INDUSTRIES 88
CENTENNIAL PAVING LTD 66
CEP LOCAL 911 82
CHAPARRAL CAFE 112
CHEP 118
CHIP 9 MACHINING LTD. 56
CITY CENTER BINGO 46
CITY OF REGINA MAYOR'S OFFICE 8
CLARK ROOFING REGINA 66
COLONIAL SQUARE MOTEL 76
COMMUNITY AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE . . . 78
CONSEIL DES ECOLES FRANKSASKOISE . . . S6
CONSTRUCTION CAREERS PRINCE 106
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION #180 22
CO-OPERATORS INSURANCE 13
COPPERBELT HOTEL 112
COVENTRY FUNERAL HOME 56
CREATIVE DOOR SVC LTD 44
CREDIT UNION CENTRE 30
CROSS ROADS INN 110
CUPE HEALTH CARE WORKERS' COUNCIL OF UNIONS . . 28
CUPE LOCAL 4980 28
CUPE SASKATCHEWAN DIVISION 24
D & D INSTALLATIONS LTD 108
D & J BOBCAT SERVICES 118
D 2 CONSTRUCTION LTD. 58
D F (YOGI) HUYGHBAERT WOODRIVER 48
DARLINGTON HOLDINGS INC 30
DAYS INN 62
DEAN OF ARTS OFFICE - UNIVERSITY OF REGINA . . 14
deLINT PLUS EDWARDS ARCHITECTS 50
DENITA CONSTRUCTION LTD 62
DETOUR BAR & GRILL 88
DIMENSION 3 HOSPITALITY CORP/ DAYS INN REGINA . . 92
DI'S AUTO PAINT & CHIP REPAIR 58
DOMCO FOOD SVC 68
DONNA'S COMPASSIONATE CARE 110
DOREL AUTO BODY LTD 113
DREWITZ SCHOOL OF DANCE 102
DUMONT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE BSC 68
DUNHAM'S TIRE SVC 104
E E BURRITOS 84
EARTH DRILLING CO LTD 32
EASTERN AIR SUPPLIES 60
ECONOMY MAYTAG HOME APPLIANCE 46
EECOL ELECTRIC 90
EMCO CORPORATION 38
ENGCOMP 74
ESTONIA FARMING CO LTD 44
EVANS EXCAVATING INC 114
EVANS INSURANCE BROKERS 32
EVIDENT CORPORATE INVESTIGATIONS . . OBC
EXCLUSIVE ESTHETICS EDUCATION & DIST. 112
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 1
EXTREME TRANSMISSION REBUILDERS 50
FANTASY REALM TATTOO'S & BODY PIERCING 68
FILIPINO COMMUNITY CHURCH 64
FISHER'S EXTERIORS 108
FITZPATRICK INSULATING 112
FIVE STAR TRUCK COLLISION CTR 46
FLAMAN FITNESS 32
FLATTOP AUTOMOTIVE INC. 110
FOLKFEST INC 44
FRONTIER PETERBILT SALES LTD 84
FUNK'S DRIVING SCHOOL 72
G & S LANDSCAPE & EXCAVATION 50
G E RAILCAR REPAIR SVC CORP 68
G G DEAN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT 56
G M JANITORIAL SVC 13
GANG-NAIL TRUSSES & BUILDING COMPONENTS . . 110
GARRY'S PROFESSIONAL DRIVING 114
GEMMELL'S SHOES LTD 60
GENERAL CABLE 88
GENE'S LTD. 80
GERRY'S AUTO TRANSMISSION LTD 42
GLOBE PRINTERS LTD. 70
GOLD EAGLE CASINO 13
GOLD EAGLE GAS BAR 36
GOLDEN BOWL 66
GOLDEN MILE SHOPPING CENTRE 92
GOODWILL BAKERY 113
GORDON ROAD PHARMACY INC 90
GRAHAM CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEER 94
GRAIN SERVICES UNION 72
GRAINFIELDS FAMILY RESTAURANT 76
GRASSLAND AUTO SALES 102
GRIFFIN FINANCIAL SERVICES 108
HABANO'S MARTINI & COCKTAIL 88
HAL WELLSCH 80
HALSTEAD DENTURE CLINIC 56
HAMM CONSTRUCTION LTD 64
HARDY EXCAVATING LTD 74
HEADWATERS (2001) 104
HEAT HAWG INC 80
HERMAN'S TOWING 62
HEWITT ASSOCIATES 108
HIGHLIGHT ANTENNA & TOWER SVC 84
HILL TOP MANOR 113
HOLDSTOCK LIVESTOCK LTD. 52
HOLT'S POWDER RIVER SALES 112
HOMES & LAND INC 106
HOMETOWN BOOKKEEPING 104
HUMPHREY WINDOW & DOOR STORE 44
HUSKY CAR & TRUCK STOP/RSTRNT 118
HUSKY MARKET CORP. 82
ILES ELECTRIC LTD 50
IMPACT OILFIELD MANAGEMENT TEAM INC. . 26
INTER- CITY PHARMACY 58
INTRIGUE FASHION 118
IQMETRIX 80
IRON WORKERS UNION LOCAL 771 56
J & D SEWER SVC LTD. 12
J F CONTRACTORS ELECTRICAL SVC 113
J J SIMPSON ENVIRONMENTAL SVC 100
J L P MASONRY 112
JAKE'S ON 21ST 108
JOHNSTONE TANK TRUCKING LTD 113
JUST VOLLEYBALL 110
KANAWEYIMIK CHILD & FAMILY SVC 40
KARLO HOSPITALITY INC 108
KEETHANOW FOOD SUPERMARKET 110
KELTURN DRYWALL LTD. 62
KEMP THOMPSON MC LEOD 42
KEN KLEIN'S ELECTRIC 96
KEN-DEE TRUCKING 88
KING'S ACRES CAMPGROUND LTD 106
KIWANIS CLUB OF REGINA 20
KOENDERS WINDMILLS INC 118
KOPERA CARE HOME 106
KOPP'S GUNS & SUPPLIES 58
L & L GRAVEL & RANCHING CO. LTD. 78
LA RONGE PETROLEUM LTD 52
LABOUR READY TEMPORARY SVC 98
LAKELAND AGENCIES 38
LANE LAND SVC LTD 48
LANGEN DAVID 118
LAST CHANCE JANITOR SVC LTD 42
LAZAR EQUIPMENT LTD 72
LEN'S HAULING 114
LIONSGATE DEVELOPMENTS INC 15
LITTLE PINE GAS BAR & CONVENIENCE STORE 98
LITTLE RED RIVER BAND ADMINISTRATION . 68
LIZEE & CO 94
LONE WOLF CATERING 84
LORI KEELER REMAX MOOSE JAW 114
LOST CHILD TOWING 34
MAC EWEN CONSTRUCTORS INC 104
MACKLIN SCHOOL 78
MACRO PROPERTIES 118
MAC'S CONVENIENCE STORE 20
MADROS LTD. 114
MAGGIE MAE'S FAMILY RESTAURANT 113
MAIN TRACK CAFE 90
MAINSTREAM GLOBAL ENTERPRISES 100
MAINSTREET EQUITY CORP. 15
MARGO CO-OP STORE 54
MARKOS BROTHERS CLEANING SVC 90
MAX REFRACTORY SVC 82
MAZENC FUELS LTD. 112
MCDOUGALL GAULEY BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS . . 20
MCGILLICKY OILFIELD CONSTR. 64
MCL ELECTRIC 118
MEDSTEAD HOTEL 52
MELRON BACKHOE SVC 62
MEMORIES FROM YVONNE ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES . . 62
METIS FAMILY COMMUNITY JUSTICE 100
MEYERS C R DDS 110
MICKEY'S CAFE 52
MIDALE CREDIT UNION LTD 70
MIDALE PETROLEUMS LTD 38
MIDTOWN PLAZA 2
MILLER WELL SERVICING LTD 114
MILLER'S SHEET METAL 34
MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONS, PUBLIC SAFETY & POLICING . . 26
MINUTE MUFFLER & BRAKE 74
MINUTE MUFFLER & BRAKE 86
MISO YA JAPANESE CUISINE 118
MITCHELL BROTHERS CONCRETE 118
MNS LTD 112
MOOSE JAW CULTURAL CTR INC. 108
MOOSE JAW TRANSIT 98
MR B'S GUITAR STUDIO 104
MUSKOWEKWAN GAS BAR & CONVIENCE . . 42
N T EXCAVATING 82
NAPA AUTO PARTS 52
NATIONAL CRANE SVC INC. 76
NATIVE CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL 78
NATURE'S BEST VITAMINS 102
NEEN'S NOOK 108
NESTOR'S BAKERY LTD 112
NEVILLE GRAIN CO 78
NOBLE CONSTRUCTION 90
NORTH CENTRAL FAMILY CTR 24
NORTH EAST SCHOOL DIVISION 36
NORTH LAKE CONSTRUCTION 84
NORTH RIDGE DEVELOPMENT CORP 72
NORTH SASK RIVER METIS LOCAL 269 66
NORTH WEST SCHOOL DIV 203 12
NORTHERN CAREER QUEST INC. 15
NORTHERN VILLAGE OF BUFFALO NARROWS 90
NORTHSIDE ENGINE REBUILDERS LTD 56
NORTHWEST NATIONS EDUCATION 12
NU LINE AUTO BODY 118
O S C MANAGEMENT LTD 72
O'BRIANS SALES & LEASING 14
OHLMANN TRUCKING 46
OKO HAUS DESIGN 94
OLD TIMER JANITORIAL 112
OLIVER'S BORDER JUNCTION 50
OMINICA DENTAL 58
OSKAR'S DELI MEATS & SAUSAGE 40
P A RADIATOR SHOP 60
PARIS CAFE 94
PARK FUNERAL CHAPEL 113
PARRHEIM FOODS 110
PASTA PRIMA 40
PDQ COURIER 30
PEACE HILLS TRUST CO 32
PENS & PARCHMENT INC 86
PERFECT EDGE PAINTING 114
PERRAS FAMILY FOODS 104
PETER'S CLEANING SVC. 54
PHARMASAVE # 408 104
PHEONIX AUTO PARTS LTD. 66
PHOENIX RESIDENTIAL SOCIETY 88
PINELAND CO- OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION . . 113
PIPESTONE KIN-ABILITY CTR INCORPORATED 62
PIPPIN TECHNICAL SVC LTD. 102
PLUMBERS & PIPE FITTERS LOCAL 179 28
PRACTICUM TRAINING INSTITUTE INC . . . . . IFC
PRAIRIE CRANE 70
PRAIRIE PIPELINE CONTRACTORS 112
PRE- CON LTD. 80
PRIME TIME MOVIES & FRENCHIE'S PIZZA . . 102
PROFESSIONAL FAMILY CONSULTANTS 94
PUMP JACKS SALOON-STEAK HOUSE 82
QUEEN MARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL 54
QUILL LAKE CREDIT UNION LTD. 106
R & D FRASER HOMES LTD. 66
R ROTH ENTERPRISES INC 98
RALPH GOODALE MP WASCANA 34
RAMCO PAVING LTD. 44
RANCH EHRLO SOCIETY 74
RANDY WEEKES MLA BIGGAR 34
RAWLINSON CRES CARE HOME 86
RBC DOMINION SECURITIES INC 38
RECON POWER SUPPLIES 40
REDBERRY PHARMACY LTD. 112
REEL MARINE 64
REGINA AIRPORT AUTHORITY 70
REGINA BEACH CAMPGROUND 92
REGINA FUNERAL HOME 34
REGINA LOCK & KEY 10
REGINA SPORT GROUP INC 110
REGINA TRUCK & TRAILER REPAIR 50
REGINA TRUCK BRITE LTD 118
REV ENERGY 70
RITZ GERRY MP THE BATTLEFORDS LLOYDMINSTER . . 14
RIVIER ACADEMY 104
RJ'S CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LTD 36
RM OF CYMRI 64
RM OF HEART'S HILL 88
RM OF SENLAC #411 92
ROCKSTAR RYDZ 17
ROSENAU TRANSPORT LTD. 34
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION #60 114
ROYAL LE PAGE REGINA REALTY 68
RUSU FINANCIAL INC. 100
S R I HOMES INC 104
SALGADO'S ALTERATIONS 106
SALVATION ARMY 42
SANDERSON BALICKI PARCHOMCHUK 72
SANDRA'S BEAUTY SALON 110
SARCAN RECYCLING 22
SASK POLICE COLLEGE 106
SASK ROUGHRIDER FOOTBALL CLUB 13
SK BLUE CROSS 12
SK IN MOTION - C/O - SASK SPORT 8
SK LIQUOR AND GAMING AUTHORITY 22
SK PARTY GOVERNMENT CAUCUS 4
SK PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSN . . . 34
SK RIVERS SCHOOL DIV 113
SK SCRAP TIRE CORP 72
SK TRUCKING ASSOC 76
SK VOICE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES . . . 54
SK VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION 80
SK YOUTH IN CARE 86
SASKATOON BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT 96
SASKATOON CARDIOVASCULAR CTR 100
SASKATOON CHIEF OF POLICE 10
SASKATOON DISASTER SVC INC 70
SASKATOON FAMILY CHILDCARE 106
SASKATOON METAL MFG LTD. 42
SASKNATIVE RENTALS INC. 48
SASKTEL PIONEERS 6
SAULTEAUX HEALING & WELLNESS CTR 54
SAULTEAUX JUNCTION GAS STORE 84
SCHAAN HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS 74
SEARS CANADA INC. 114
SECURITAS 78
SERVICE & HOSPITALITY SAFETY 68
SHEAR FABRICATION LTD 88
SHOPPERS DRUG MART 60
SHORT STOP AUTO REPAIR 110
SILVERMAN OILFIELDS SERVICES 92
SIMPSON HOTEL 113
SIMPSON SEEDS INC. 36
SMITH AGENCIES LTD 36
SMOKE & ASHES TABACCO 48
SOBEY'S 114
SOIL TECH 60
SOUTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY FUTURE 76
SOUTH HILL MEDICAL PRACTICE 106
SOUTHEAST CORNERSTONE SCHOOL DIV . . 40
SOUTHERN RANGE WELL SERVICING 30
SPUZAK MEATS LTD 113
ST GERARD'S CHURCH 42
ST JOHN AMBULANCE 42
ST MICHAEL'S/ST.DOMINIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNSIL . . 104
STEAM- EST INDUSTRIES LTD 38
STOCKHOLM HOTEL/TAVERN 96
SUN COUNTRY HEALTH 102
SUNRIDGE RV 60
SUNRISE HEALTH REGION 26
SUNRISE MOTEL 96
SUNSET FARMS LTD. 113
SVEIN BRYEIDE CONSTRUCTION 96
SYNERGY SALES INC. 104
T D CANADA TRUST 108
T N C MALL PROPERTY HOLDINGS INC 106
T N T LAWNCARE 118
T T AUTO SVC 56
T W B CONSTRUCTION LTD. 82
TAB ENTERPRISE 84
TAIT KITCHEN CTR LTD 86
TAMARA'S HOUSE INC 76
TAYLOR AUTO GROUP 15
TAYLOR VOLKSWAGEN INC 38
TD BANK CANADA TRUST 22
TEAMSTERS DIVISION 510 104
TEAMSTERS UNION 50
TEK RENOVATIONS-CONTRACTING 106
TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES 26
THE DANCE ZONE SCHOOL OF DANCE 66
THE RESORT VILLAGE OF FORT SAN 108
THIRD GENERATION CONCRETE SERVICE . . 98
THYSSEN MINING CONSTRUCTION 36
TIME REAL ESTATE LTD 30
TNN PARCEL EXPRESS 76
TRAC HOLDINGS LTD. 64
TRAIL EXCAVATING LTD. 110
TRANSMISSION WAREHOUSE INC 110
TROBERT LAW FIRM 112
TRON POWER LP 92
TWO SMALL MEN WITH BIG HEARTS 64
UNION GROCERY & CONFECTIONERY 110
UNIQUE DRYWALL LTD 48
UNITED BRO'HD CARPENTERS & JOINERS OF AMERICA 46
UNITED CENTRIFUGE LTD. 114
UNIVERSITY OF REGINA 80
UNTANGLED HAIR GROUP 58
VANIN'S LITTLE DIGGER 90
VILLAGE OF ELSTOW 78
VILLAGE OF LANG 56
VILLAGE OF VANSCOY 40
VIP PET CARE 94
VITALITY CENTRE 118
WADENA MEAT PROCESSORS 94
WAGNER'S FLOORING LTD 113
WAL-MART BATTLEFORD 36
WAL-MART DISTRICT OFFICE 10
WAL-MART MOOSE JAW 74
WAL-MART (WEYBURN) 90
WAL-MART ESTEVAN 24
WAPPEL CONSTRUCTION CO LTD 98
WASABI 68
WASCANA CENTRE AUTHORITY 74
WASKESIU GOLF COURSE 66
WENDY'S 113
WESTCAN MECHANICAL SALES 114
WESTERN REDI MIX INC 72
WESTERN TRACT MISSION 108
WESTRIDGE CONSTRUCTION LTD 52
WEYBURN POLICE SVC 106
WHITELINE CHARTERS 80
WHITTER CONSTRUCTION 104
WIENS STUCCO WIRE LTD 44
WILLOWS TULLOCH BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS . . . 28
WILSON INSURANCE SVC 100
WINDOWS BEAUTIFUL 14
WINDSOR PLYWOOD LTD 86
WINTRINGHAM ROOFING 86
WITHIN CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES 118
YIU'S GARDEN RESTAURANT 44
YORKTON TRIBAL COUNCIL 52
ZEMCO DOOR PRODUCTS 110
ZENSTAR DEVELOPMENTS LTD 100

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Public Health Agency of Canada
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca

Department of Justice, Canada
www.justice.gc.ca

Canadian Association of Sexual Abuse Centres
www.casac.ca

Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime
www.crcvc.ca/en/links

Canadian Children's Rights Council
www.canadiancrc.com

Parent Help Line
www.parenthelpline.ca

Parenting Network
www.parentingnetwork.ca

Government of Saskatchewan
www.socialservices.gov.sk.ca

British Columbia Government
www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/keeping_kids_safe.htm

Society for Children and Youth of BC
http://.scyofbc.org

Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868
www.kidshelpphone.ca

What's the Deal
www.deal.org

Kids Health (USA)
http://kidshealth.org

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