



Centre  
for Research  
on Violence Against  
Women and Children

# ...Moving Forward...

## Message from the Academic Director



The Centre has established a strong foothold both in the research and service communities, linking together researchers, educators, advocates, practitioners, and other interested parties. It has brought the importance of this issue (violence against women and children) to the foreground in academic research, and established a strong partnership with people in our community who have been struggling with the problem on the front lines.

Our centre has assisted many community, college, and university groups in developing their research ideas, which has led to several major research funding opportunities and partnerships. It has concurrently assisted in raising awareness of these issues, especially in the academic community that has traditionally been less responsive to woman abuse and child abuse.

We see a future for the Centre that builds on this foundation and establishes a strong commitment to ending violence in the lives of women and children, through our efforts at education, prevention, and community partnerships.

*David A. Wolfe, Ph.D., RBC Investments Chair in Developmental Psychopathology and Children's Mental Health, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Academic Director Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children*

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## Mission Statement

*The purpose of the Centre is to promote the development of community-centred action research on violence against women and children, using a feminist analysis. The Centre's role is to facilitate individuals, groups and institutions representing the diversity of the community to pursue research questions and training opportunities related to the understanding and prevention of woman and child abuse.*

## Dedication

We dedicate this edition to women and children whose lives have been impacted by violence. Their stories will continue to inspire us in our research.

We remember especially the 14 women murdered at the École Polytechnique in Montreal.

The women who died were named:

Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maud Haviernick, Maryse Laganière, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard, Annie St-Arneault, Annie Turcotte, Barbara Klucznik Widajewicz



## Letter from the UWO President

The Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children was a landmark in cooperation and collaboration among The University of Western Ontario, Fanshawe College, and The London Coordinating Committee to End Women Abuse. Such a partnership among the two postsecondary institutions and a community organization was unique in London a decade ago, and the intervening years have demonstrated the value of this collective effort in scholarship and social service.

On this tenth anniversary of the founding of the Centre, I send you most sincere congratulations on behalf of the University. You and your colleagues have provided a model of the way the University can interact as a member of the larger community, providing a resource and catalyst for action on critical public issues. The quality of research performed under the Centre's auspices has earned you the attention and support of the Bank of Nova Scotia, including both the Centre itself, the Scotiabank Professorship, scholarships and research grants.

The past ten years have seen a tremendous amount of productive activity and scholarship, made possible by the Centre and its members and contributing directly to the quality of life in our broader community. I join my colleagues throughout the University in offering you our congratulations and best wishes for continued success on this very special anniversary.

*Paul Davenport, UWO President*



Centre staff and placement student 2003 (above)

## Message from the Chair of the Advisory Board

The Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children is celebrating ten years of successful research in a new and difficult field of study. We are among five such centres founded across Canada after the Montreal Massacre of 1989, originally funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and Health Canada. Yet our centre is a unique organization, having been from our inception a three-way partnership struck among the London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse, a coalition of community organizations; Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology; and The University of Western Ontario. Our mission has been to conduct and fund action-oriented feminist research, with an ongoing commitment to the prevention of violence against women and children.

Our union of practitioners working in the field, applied and theoretical researchers, along with students and their supervisors, has served the Centre well. Over this time, we have obtained more than six million dollars in grants and contracts to conduct dozens of major research projects. At the same time, we have funded more than a hundred smaller research projects conducted by members of the anti-violence community in London and elsewhere in Southwestern Ontario.

We have not yet solved the problem of violence against women and children. Much is yet to be done. The Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children looks forward to many more years of feminist action-oriented research and its practical application in the world.

*Nancy E. Bjerring, PhD., Coordinator of the Arts and Science Program at Fanshawe College was Chair from 1999 to 2003.*

*Tim Kelly, Executive Director of Changing Ways has recently taken up the position.*

### Members of the Original Research Team

*Constance Backhouse*

*Judith Belle Brown*

*Lorraine Greaves*

*Shelina Neallani*

*Roma Harris*

*Gail Hutchinson*

*Peter Jaffe*

*Alison MacDonald*

*Jan Richardson*

*David Wolfe*

*Violence Prevention is the overarching goal of the Centre's Research Agenda.*

*We will accomplish this through:*

### *Action Research and Anti-Violence Education from Feminist Perspectives.*

The Centre initiates and seeks funding for projects relating to the following themes:

- Healthy Relationships
- Violence and Its Impact on Health and Well Being
- Gender Inequality and its intersections with:
  - Racism
  - Ableism
  - Homophobia
  - Poverty

The Centre conducts research that is relevant to:

- Legal Systems
- Workplaces
- Families and Intimate Relationships
- Health and Mental Health Care Systems
- Educational Institutions
- Communities
- Social Service Agencies
- Anti-violence Agencies

Approaches include:

- Participatory Action Research
- Collaborative Initiatives, including Community-Academic Partnerships
- Community Development and Support
- Public Awareness Campaigns
- Program Development and Evaluation
- Consultation with Community and Academic Partners
- Diverse Research Methodologies, including qualitative and quantitative designs
- Identification of Emerging Issues

In 1992, a London Steering Committee was formed to develop a proposal which reflected London's unique pioneering and coordinated efforts to address violence against women and children. This committee represented academic and community representatives. In the original proposal, the goal of the centre was outlined, "***We intend to build upon London's historical foundation of a sustained partnership between academics and community agencies to establish a collaborative model for pro-active research.***"

The committee was successful in its bid to house the research centre at The University of Western Ontario. The Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children was one of five such research centres awarded funding for a five-year period.

## Acknowledgements

There have been many travelers on the ten-year journey to this anniversary. Any attempt to acknowledge specific contributions could only result in leaving out the particular gift of an individual or an organization. Instead we present this document that traces our collective history.

In these pages you will meet some of the people who have been instrumental in building the Centre. You will see many of our accomplishments summarized. And hopefully, you will get a sense of those who work together, in a myriad of ways, to support the vision of this Centre and its goal to prevent violence against women and children.

To choose a mandate to uncover and examine and confront the brutal reality of violence against women and children requires courage and vision. To choose to build this work on a collaborative partnership between academics and practitioners, students and community members requires no less. Our ability to negotiate these relationships and to continue to grow is one measure of our success.

This is a day for all of us - researchers, staff, board members, community partners, students, administrators and donors to be proud of what we have created. Our connections make us strong. Our compassion fuels our work, and our collective commitment to justice and equality across differences of gender, race, religion, ability, sexual orientation and socio-economic status offers hope for the future.

*Barb MacQuarrie, Community Development Coordinator*

## Beginnings - 1992

In the early evening of December 6, 1989, fourteen young women were gunned down at the École Polytechnique in Montreal. The killer left a note blaming feminism for the failures in his life. The massacre profoundly shocked Canadians. Following these deaths, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) proposed to the Prime Minister that centres on family violence and violence against women be established. Health and Welfare Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada responded to this request by issuing a call for proposals.

## Partnerships

Since its inception, the Centre's three partners — The London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse, Fanshawe College, and The University of Western Ontario — have contributed by providing administrative, financial and in kind support in all of the research activities, as well as the Advisory Board and research teams on various studies.

The Centre continues to develop increased community and academic collaboration and networking. Hundreds of individuals from our three partner organizations have been directly involved in research committees and/or the Advisory Board. In addition, other community members are involved or knowledgeable with the Centre, either through our Community Grants Program, our Speaker and Seminar Series, our Publications, and/or informal consultation.

The membership of the Board of Directors was constructed to reflect this collaboration. Since the Centre became more formally affiliated with the University of Western Ontario in October 1997, the Board of Directors has become an Advisory Board. The Advisory Board membership continues to reflect the original partnership.

## Structure and Governance

Dr. Lorraine Greaves was seconded from Fanshawe College as the Centre's first Director when the Centre opened in August 1993. Dr. David Wolfe, The University of Western Ontario was the Senior Research Advisor. Nora Shanahan was hired as Administrative Assistant. The Centre was situated at The University of Western Ontario's Research Park.

The Centre merged with the Centre for Women's Studies and Feminist Research in October, 1997, with Katherine McKenna becoming Director of both centres. At that time the Centre moved to University College. The Board of Directors changed its role and became an Advisory Board, continuing to follow actively the activities of the Centre. During this period, Scotiabank generously contributed major funding to the Centre for a Scotiabank Professor, Small Grants Program, Research Internships and Student Scholarships.

In November 2000, the Centre was temporarily located at a downtown location on Pall Mall Street while the Advisory Board and staff continued to build community and academic research activities. Alison Cunningham from the Centre for Families and Children in the Justice System of the Family Court Clinic took on the position of Acting Director.

In May 2002, the Centre moved to Althouse College and began a new phase in its evolution, collaborating and working with the Faculty of Education, with Barb MacQuarrie as Community Development Coordinator, and David Wolfe as Academic Director, thus ensuring the continuity of the work of the Centre.

## Major Research Accomplishments

### Current Research Activities

Handbook for Sexual Abuse Survivors

Preventing Abuse in Adolescent Relationships

Effects of Child Abuse and Exposure to Family Violence on Child and Adolescent Health

Best Practices for Prevention of Violence Against Women

Development of a Training Program to Address Gendered Harassment in the Workplace Research Partnerships

Evaluation of Child Witness Project

Evaluation of Gay/Lesbian/ Transgendered Family Network Project

The 4th R Project

The Girl Child Project

### Research Completed over the Last Ten Years

Research On Informational Needs And Development Of Resources For Abuse Survivors On Civil And Criminal Remedies

Investigation Of The Therapeutic Consequences Of Civil Litigation And Compensation Claims For Victims Of Sexual Assault And Incest

Feasibility Study: Review Of The Criminalization Of Wife Assault Strategy In Ontario

Conference On Sexual Harassment In The Workplace, *The Way Forward*

Production Of An Informational Video On Sexual Harassment In The Workplace

Assessing The Chilly Climate In Co-Ed Residences

*Affiliated Project:* Developing Psycho-Educational Program For Children And Youth

*Collaborative Project:* The Influence Of Public Health Policy On Single Parent Families Who Have Experienced Violence

Developing Effective Anti-Violence Educational Materials For Men And Boys

The Development Of A National Strategy On Violence Prevention And The Girl Child

Violence Prevention In Costa Rica

# Scotiabank Community Research Grants

The Experience Of Women Partners In Private Family Visits

The Social Implications Of The Economic Costs Of Violence Against Women In Canada

The Health-Related Costs Of Violence Against Women In Canada

Assessing The Integrated Model Of Woman Abuse Services In London, Ontario

Integrated Model Assessment

An Accountable Community-Based Evaluation Of Programs For Men Who Batter

Website Survey On Tracking Of Use Of Woman Abuse Services

External Evaluation Of The London Initiative To End Woman Abuse, Phases 1 & 2

Vicarious Trauma In The Anti-Violence Sector

A Preliminary Investigation Of London's Integrated Model Responses To Woman Abuse

Educational Video On The "Backlash" In Canadian Universities And Colleges

Investigation Of Self Discovery In Abuse

A Study Of Survivors: Recovered Memories Of Child Abuse

A Narrative Study Of Immigrant Women And Refugee Women Who Have Experienced Violence In The Context Of War

Evaluation Of Groups Of Children Who Have Witnessed Violence

Women's Experiences In The Community After Leaving A Shelter

Facilitating Variables Of Change In Group Therapy With Survivors Of Sexual Abuse

An Intermediary Survey Of Agencies Who Are Mandated To Deal With Either Violence And/Or Addictions

How Women Who Have Been Abused By A Male Partner Move From Individual Survival To Participation In Organized an Collective

Women As Co-Leaders In Treatment Groups For Batterers

Grey County Court Tracking Project

The Colour Of Fear: Adult Survivors Of Incest, Women Of Colour

Developing a Treatment & Prevention Program for Aggressive Adolescent Women

The Effects of Childhood Maltreatment and Trauma on the Parent-Child Relationship

Examination of the Issues that Surround A Woman's Ability to remain Out of an Abusive Relationship

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Combination of an Anti-Violence Plan and Workshop for High Schools

Access To Woman Abuse Services by Arabic-Speaking Women in London

Online Counselling for Abused Women (Jan Richardson, Women's Community House)

Phase III of Accountability Assessment of Changing Ways Program

Background Research to Develop A Study of Woman Abuse, Pet Ownership and Safety Seeking Strategies

An Examination of the Effectiveness of Restraining Orders

Making the Experiences and Voices of Non-English Speaking Women PAR

A Preliminary Examination of One of the Components of the First-Charge Intervention Process in Rural Areas

Woman Abuse Group Manual for Women in Hostels or Drop-In Programs

Examination of Effective Dads: A Fathering Program for Abusive Men

Evaluation of the London & Middlesex Domestic Violence Court

London District Catholic District School Board: Involving Students in the Implementation of the Safe Schools Policy

Caught in the Middle, Children as Witnesses in Domestic Violence Court

Untold Stories: A Narrative Analysis of Immigrant Women's Experiences with Intimate Partner Abuse

Violence Prevention Program Review, The Thames Valley District School Board.

Development of a Support Group for Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual Youth

Website Update to Assist Community Researchers

Perception of Woman Abuse Services by Muslim Men in London (Changing Ways)

Prevalence Survey of Children with Sexual Behavioural Problems (Child Abuse Council of Toronto)

Implementation of a Screening Protocol for Woman Abuse in Mental Health and Addiction Agencies (London East Mental Health Services)

Transforming Spaces: Girlhood, Agency and Power — a conference of community activists and researchers (The Alliance of Five Research Centres on Violence)

## Workshops/ Seminars

Jane Doe: launching a law suit against the Metro Toronto Police Force who did not inform the community that the man who raped her was at large

Bill C-46: a review of the legislation regarding access to the records of sexual assault survivors

Social Justice and the Law: the role of civil litigation as a vehicle for achieving social justice

Development of a Comprehensive Community-Based Education and Training Program

Feminist Research Seminars

- Qualitative and quantitative methods
- Designing a research question
- Ethical considerations in action research
- Evaluation of action research

Policy Issues For Social Work Students

## Visits from International Delegations

Toyota City, Japan (Oct., 2002)

A group of representatives working on woman abuse issues from Japan visited to centre as part of their fact-finding visit to Canada.

San Jose, Costa Rica (Feb., 2003)

A group of women's advocates working on violence against women and family violence met with the Centre's Community Development Coordinator

## Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children Research Seminar Series

The Centre developed a series of seminars of particular interest to community partners, students, interns and faculty conducting research. This series is especially designed to assist potential and current recipients of the Scotiabank Community Research Grants Program in preparing and carrying out research projects. Between November 2002 and April 2003, the following seminars were offered:

### **Introduction to Competitive Grant Writing**

Dr. David Wolfe, Dr. Claire Crooks - CRVAWC

### **Effective Powerpoint Presentations**

George Goodall - CRVAWC

### **Conducting Culturally Sensitive Research**

Dr. Mohamed Baobaid - Changing Ways  
Trish Taft - Cross-Cultural Learner Centre

### **Perspectives on Feminist Approaches to Research**

Panel Presentation with Dr. Helene Berman,  
Dr. Alan Leschied, Dr. Melanie Randall and  
Dr. Anchalee Panigabutra-Roberts

## Events

June 4, 2002

**Video Launch**, *The Way Forward: Rethinking Sexual Harassment in the Workplace*, in partnership with the Sexual Assault Centre London

June 5 to 7, 2002

**National Roundtable** discussing Anti-violence Initiatives and the Girl Child. The Centre organized this roundtable with members of the Alliance of Five Centres on Violence.

Attending were government leaders and women's advocates from across Canada

November 2002

**Open House** to mark the CRVAWC's move to Althouse College, with presentations by Dr. David Wolfe and Dr. Melanie Randall

March 7, 2003

**International Women's Day** Presentation of the Vagina Monologues in partnership with the Sexual Assault Centre, London

September 2003

**Faculty of Education Art Class** chooses the Centre as its community project culminating in a mural depicting sites of centre research (family, educational institutions, community and workplace)

## Lunch Time Networking Group

A group of community and academic researchers have been meeting for an informal brainstorming and networking luncheon every month.

Connections between these two groups have resulted in sharing of methodologies, access to potential research subjects and more importantly, a forum to exchange ideas and explore potential partnerships.

## Resource Library

University of Western Ontario, Fanshawe College and local high school students have visited the centre to get anti-violence materials and reports that cannot be found in regular libraries. Centre staff assists them in focusing their research goal and information on the most recent research.

# Scotiabank Student Research Awards

## 2001-2002

**Kyla Lamarche**, who is currently studying feminist political theory, looked at women's safety on campus at The University of Western Ontario. She wrote on the connection between crime and the environment, the Chilly Climate, the non-physical environment that is a reality for women at UWO.

**Anna Ziolecki**, a fourth-year Women's Studies student researched the repercussions that immigrant women face as a result of domestic abuse. She concluded that, despite the variety of interconnected services available to abused women in London, immigrant women continue to face unique challenges in seeking assistance. She suggested that it is important to become familiar with the additional barriers that immigrant women face and remain sensitive to cultural differences in the provision of assistance.

## 2002-2003

Students receiving awards for this year have worked on designing a study of harassment experienced by students at the University of Western Ontario and Fanshawe College. Recipients are:

**Hannah Gordon**, is in the Masters Program of Psychology at the University of Western Ontario. She has previously acted as a Research Assistant in the Burlington Art Centre, the Movement Disorders Clinic of the London Health Sciences Centre, the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Western Ontario and the Special Education Project of the Ontario Ministry of Education and an independent research project around the genetic basis of health risk behaviours. She has acted as a delegate at the "Students Action Against Violence" conference in Hamilton-Wentworth and volunteered for many community organizations.

**Surkhab Peerzada**, is a fourth year student in the Honours Bachelor of Health Science program at the University of Western Ontario. She hopes to work in community agencies that address violence against women in order to put her academic learning into practice. Her experience as the Campus Safety Commissioner for the University Student Council has highlighted the importance of research that would lead to better safety measures for her peers and society at large.

She learned basic research skills through her part-time position as a research assistant for an Associate professor in the School of Occupational Therapy.

**Sharon G. Sabourin**, is a graduate of the Honours Bachelor of Health Sciences program at University of Western Ontario, continuing in the Masters program in the Sociology department at UWO. She is pursuing research in the field of health, and women's issues. She is interested in issues pertaining to women and children in general, but particularly interested in the status of sole-support parents at post-secondary institutions in Canada.

She has worked as a research assistant for the Centre for Health and Well-being, where she researched the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS support groups in Canada and Brazil, and for the Aging in the New Economy Project looking at patterns of the aging workforce. She has also been involved in the Scientific Journey conference at UWO.

**Pro Bono Students of Canada** is a program that coordinates placements for law students, allowing them to do legal research while being supervised and mentored by persons with expertise in a specific area of law. CRVAWC supervised three Pro Bono students for the 2002-2003 school term. Jennifer Lennon, Pina Ozyetis and Tania Ng did research on workplace harassment. They are continuing the work begun in their placement on a volunteer basis to organize a conference focusing on harassment for the spring of 2004.

## Centre Publication Series

Gender, Religion, Sexuality And The State: Mediating The Hadood Laws In Pakistan, Shahnaz Khan (2001)

A Vague And Dangerous Dance: The Politics Of Justice For Domestic Assault Victims In A Rural County, Marilyn Struthers (2001)

Assessing The Integrated Model Of Services For Abused Women: The Consumers' Perspective, C. Grasely, J. Stickney, R. Harris, G. Hutchinson, L. Greaves, T. Boyd (1999)

Educating For Change (II), L. Haskell, M. Randall and L. Chen (1999)

Holding Society Accountable: The Therapeutic Consequences Of Civil Actions For Damages And Compensation Claims By Victims Of Sexual Abuse, B. Feldthusen, L. Greaves and O. Hankivsky (1999)

Qualitative Methodology: Two Examples In Feminist Research, S. Gadbois, P. Patterson, B. Jarvis, D. Cunningham and O. Hankivsky (1999) *(continued back cover)*

## Response to Requests/ Inquiries

The centre responds to requests from local, national and international researchers and women's advocates for information on current research and referrals to other studies and for assistance in searching for recent research activities. Over the past year, requests have come from Norway, South Africa, Vietnam, Australia, Japan, Great Britain, India, Cambodia

### Areas of Inquiry

- Canadian Statistics on Family Violence
- Safety on Campus
- Health Related Effects of Violence Against Women
- Parental Abuse Gender Issues
- Adolescent Boys and Violence Prevention
- Relationship between Learning Disabilities and Violence
- International Human Rights
- Violence Against Women in Mixed Gender Psychiatric Wards
- Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- Sexual Abuse Survivors

From time to time we receive telephone calls and emails from women in crisis, which present immediate safety concerns. These calls are quickly referred to local woman abuse agencies.



## A Special Thank-You

On September 25, 2003, we said good-bye to Nora Shanahan (pictured above), our Administrative Coordinator for 10 years. With us

from the time we opened our doors, Nora was a thread of memory and experience that wove through our past and our present. Nora's job was far too varied and unpredictable to be able to thank her for each part of it. She made things work, for each of us, and for the Centre as a whole. Sometimes that meant knowing just who to talk to get things done, sometimes it meant knowing how to talk to a woman in crisis. Sometimes it meant doing much work in too little time. And sometimes it meant a real sense of pride in having helped someone or in having done something well. We will miss you Nora, your quiet competence, your commitment, your sense of humour and your grace. We wish you wonderful new adventures on the road ahead.

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## Centre Publication Series

*(continued from page 7)*

Assessing The Chilly Climate In Co-Ed University Residences, C. de Keresztes, H. Berman and K. Scott (1997)

Establishing Links: Violence Against Women & Substance Abuse, L. Meredith (1996)

Resistance To Change: Exploring The Dynamics Of Backlash, O. Hankivsky (1996)

Shared Connections C Shared Values: Assessing The Integrated Model Of Delivering Woman Abuse Services In London, Ontario, K.J. Luton (1996)

Evaluation Of Groups For Children Who Have Witnessed Violence, L. Marshall, N. Miller, S. Miller-Hewitt, M. Sudermann and L. Watson (1995)

Evaluation Des Groupes Pour Des Enfants Temoins De Violence. L. Marshall, N. Miller, S. Miller-Hewitt, M. Sudermann and L. Watson (1995)

Experiences Of Women Participating In Private Family Visits At Federal Correctional Institutions, A. Toepell (1995)

The Health-Related Costs Of Violence Against Women In Canada: Tip Of The Iceberg, T. Day (1995)

Principles Of Effective Anti-Violence Education: A Review Of Prevention Literature. J. Burkell and K. Ellis (1995)

Selected Estimates Of The Costs Of Violence Against Women. L. Greaves, O. Hankivsky, and J. Kingston-Riechers (1995)



The development of the new logo for the Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children was inspired by an original illustration by **Ruth Mitchell.**



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