

*BC Institute Against
Family Violence
2002-2003
Annual Report*



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THE BC INSTITUTE AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

Vision, Mission and Major Goals

Vision

The Institute's vision is of a province and a society without family violence where individuals, families and communities are caring, respectful and supportive.

Mission

In pursuit of our vision, the Institute's mission is to support, co-ordinate and initiate research and education programs which promote the elimination of violence in all families.

Major Goals

BCIFV works to eliminate emotional abuse, psychological abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, destruction of property, injury to pets, physical assault, sexual assault and homicide in relationships of family, trust or dependency.

BCIFV works to eliminate victimization of all family members, particularly those who are more vulnerable than others because of their gender, sex, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, physical condition, developmental capacity, mental health, age, sexual orientation, socio/economic status or related condition.

BCIFV carries out its work by undertaking research and disseminating the results through education for the identified client groups.

BCIFV works to facilitate and co-ordinate interaction among various community, university and government agencies.

BCIFV History

The BC Institute Against Family Violence was established in 1989 as a private, non-profit organization. The Institute has an executive director, staff, and associated researchers and consultants who specialize in research design, formulating and evaluating treatment programs, audio-visual and print media production, and training and professional development for community service providers. The board of directors is comprised of representatives from universities, the community, and government.

An integral part of the Institute's mandate consists of providing resource information to the community. In this context, the Institute has developed a resource centre where staff members respond to queries, research requests from service providers and the public, and loan library materials province-wide. In addition, the Institute publishes a newsletter three times annually, which covers topical issues and provides information on new resources and upcoming events for those working in the area of family violence.

The BC Institute Against Family Violence, which has a solid record of research, education, and training activities, has sponsored four major conferences. The Institute receives an operational grant from the BC Ministry of Health Services through the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission. The Institute also receives grants and contracts for specific projects federal and provincial ministries, corporate sponsors, and foundations.

Our Accomplishments in 2002/2003

- Completed a major needs assessment with key stakeholders in order to plan future directions for education and research projects.
- Completed a video and curriculum on parenting and child abuse for new immigrant parents.
- Conducted research on risk assessment and safety planning for female victims of violence and their children.
- Carried out an extensive literature review and developed measures for assessing the risk of criminal harassment.
- Reviewed coroner and police files in cases of intimate-partner femicide in BC, and developed recommendations for improving fatality reviews.
- Developed a spousal-assault risk-assessment screening tool, based on the SARA, for use by police and victim-services workers.
- Evaluated the Correction Service of Canada's treatment program for abusive men, and developed protocols and training to ensure better management of the risk to potential victims after release of offenders.
- Participated in a research project with a coalition of women's organizations to develop a proposal for funding a project to research the impact of recent service cuts on women who experience violence.
- Began research to develop best-practices guidelines for the assessment and treatment of children exposed to violence in their families.
- Undertook a literature review of best practices in serving the needs of immigrant and multicultural women who experience family violence.
- Completed a literature review and summary of research on typologies of batterers.
- Distributed *The Person Within* for caregivers of children with disabilities throughout BC.
- Managed the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services, including planning and registration for the annual conference.
- Participated in law-reform debates relating to reform of the custody and access provisions of the *Divorce Act* where family violence is an issue.
- Served on the Minister of State for Women's Equality Working Group on Women's Safety to develop a Safer Community Strategy.
- Participated in policy discussions regarding the role of child-protection workers in cases of family violence.
- Administered a study by Dr. Tonia Nicholls to identify factors that assist or impede women from seeking help and/or leaving an abusive relationship.
- Served as the lead partner of the Violence Prevention Affiliate for the national internet-based Canadian Health Network.
- Participated on the advisory committee for the Link Project: Animal Abuse and Family Violence, with the SPCA, the BC Veterinary Association, and the Victim Services Division of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- Prepared position papers on pro-charge policy changes, amendments to the *Divorce Act*, and corporal punishment.
- Answered over 500 reference questions, and circulated resource materials to the 69 members of our Resource Centre, as well as to the general public.

- Sold 687 copies of Institute publications and distributed over 640 brochures.
- Expanded the content of our website at www.bcifv.org, which logged over 82,000 visitors.
- Published and distributed three issues of the newsletter to a print readership of approximately 1558, and distributed hundreds more online.
- Distributed numerous press releases and opinion pieces and participated in several media presentations.

Our Funders

- Ministry of Health Services, Provincial Health Services Authority, Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Community Justice Branch, Victim Services Division
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Corrections Branch
- Health Canada, Population and Public Health Branch
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, General Policing and Community Safety Branch, Community Programs Division
- National Crime Prevention Centre
- Department of Justice Canada, Criminal Law Policy Section
- Correctional Service of Canada
- Heritage Canada, Multicultural Program
- Lions Gate Healthcare Research Foundation

Chair's Report

The Institute has experienced another busy year carrying out research, education, and policy-development projects. I especially wish to thank the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission for its continued support. The Board worked particularly hard this year analyzing a major needs assessment with our key stakeholders and planning future directions for research and education. The board also created a Policy Committee, which developed responses to the Ministry of Attorney General proposal to amend the pro-charge policy, and to the proposed amendments to the *Divorce Act* regarding custody and access.

In 2002/2003 the Institute completed major research reports on femicides in BC, and on victim risk assessment and safety planning for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Victim Services Division. We completed a video and curriculum on parenting and child abuse for new immigrant parents. We also continued to provide information on violence prevention and intervention as contributors to the Canadian Health Network website, as well as manage the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services, and work on major research projects related to criminal harassment, screening for risk of intimate-partner violence, and evaluation of men's treatment programs.

I wish to thank our hard-working board of directors, particularly departing members Angela Henderson and Susanne Dahlin who have contributed so many years of service to the Institute. This year we welcomed Gladys Gladstone, Wendy Van Tongeren Harvey, and Susan Boyd to the Board. We also welcomed administrative assistant Jean Leggett, bookkeeper Laura Kloppenberg and accountant Janice Miller. With regret, we said goodbye to our newsletter editor and researcher, Kai Lee Klymchuk, who is now studying for a Master's degree in psychology in England.

The work of the Institute is ably guided and supported by our exceptional Executive Director Penny Bain, and a very small, hard-working staff. We thank all of them for countless hours of work and passionate commitment. We look forward to an exciting year ahead, working together to promote a society that is free from violence against men, women, and children.

~ Frances Grunberg

Executive Director's Report

In relation to our research mandate, the Institute has nearly completed the first phase of research on victim risk assessment and safety planning. Funded by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, this phase consisted of focus groups with risk-assessment experts and frontline service providers and has resulted in the development of a draft tool to be used by service providers to enhance risk assessment and safety planning for women who experience intimate-partner violence. We are grateful for the vision and support of the staff of the Victim Services Division as we conclude this phase, and for further funding from the National Crime Prevention Centre as we approach the next phase: piloting the draft tool with service providers throughout the province, which we hope will begin in late spring 2003.

The Institute also developed tools to help police assess risk in stalking and spousal-abuse situations. These tools have been developed by the authors of the Institute's Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA), primarily Drs. Randy Kropp and Steven Hart, with funding from the National Crime Prevention Centre and Justice Canada. We hope to begin testing the tools with police in BC and elsewhere in Canada in late spring 2003.

With funding from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Kelly Watt and Dr. Stephen Hart completed a review of femicides that occurred in BC in 1997. Kelly reviewed coroner and police files for 13 femicides with the goal of identifying risk factors that lead to femicides and providing recommendations for preventive measures to justice-system partners. A key outcome was our identification of a need for fatality reviews to as a means to improve protocols and practices and therefore the justice system's response to intimate-partner violence.

Fulfilling the education part of our mandate, the Institute has released *A Newcomer's Guide to Parenting Issues in Canada*. Aimed at ESL teachers, the goal of this video and curriculum is to facilitate classroom discussion regarding the differences between child discipline and child abuse in Canadian law and culture. During a pilot phase, ESL teachers responded enthusiastically, noting that they are often the first people to whom adult ESL students turn when problems arise. As ESL classrooms do not tend to be well-funded, we are distributing this material free of charge. We are grateful to the Heritage Canada, Multicultural Program for funding to this point, and are exploring avenues for producing a version of this resource for French-as-a-second-language speakers.

Those who have been following the Institute's activities for some time will recall our 1999 launch of an innovative project called *The Person Within*, a video, handbook, and workshop on abuse of children and youth with disabilities. Warmly welcomed by the disability community, we distributed the video and handbook and conducted the workshop about 25 times in communities all over BC. Since the project wound down in 2001, we have heard from many quarters that it has been missed. Of particular interest have been enquiries from the multicultural community, from which requests have come for *The Person Within* to be adapted to address multicultural concerns and re-launched. Here again, we are exploring avenues for funding to meet demand.

On a more general note, we continued our educational work with the Canadian Health Network website, preparing FAQs on a wide range of topics relating to family violence. To read our work to date, visit www.canadian-health-network.ca. As well, we have made some changes to our newsletter. In addition to a new name and look, we hired a new editor: Lynne Melcombe of touchpoint

communication has been writing media releases, opinion pieces, and brochures for the Institute since 1996. She brings to this new task almost 20 years of experience in journalism, conference publication, and communications for non-profits and small businesses.

We also researched the literature and developed a response to the Ministry of Attorney General proposal to increase diversion of alleged assaulters prior to charge approval. I assisted Inspector Barbara Morris in making a submission to the Vancouver Police Board; this submission was subsequently adopted by the BC Police Chiefs, and BCIFV board members met with the Attorney General in October to discuss our findings. Staff also assisted board members in developing a response to the Minister of Justice's proposal to amend the *Divorce Act* regarding child custody and access. The response examines the possible shortcomings of the provisions for protecting non-abusive parents and their children from violence by abusive ex-partners during access visits.

~ Penny Bain

Board of Directors

Ms. Shashi Assanand
Executive Director
Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural
Family Support Services Society
(Appointed September 1993)

Ms. Barbara Bain
Health Educator
Sexual Health Resource Network
Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children
(Appointed October 2000)

Ms. Susan Boyd
Professor and Chair in Feminist Legal Studies
Centre for Feminist Legal Studies, Faculty of
Law, UBC
(Appointed December 2002)

Ms. Susanne Dahlin
Victim Services, Community Justice Branch
Ministry of the Attorney General
(Appointed September 1996; resigned August
2002)

Dr. Derek Eaves
Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission
(Appointed ex-officio December, 1988;
appointed board member February 2002)

Ms. Simone Fidelman
Counsellor
Golden Family Centre
(Appointed October 2000)

Ms. Gladys Gladstone
Home School Coordinator
(Appointed December 2002)

Ms. Fran Grunberg
Chair
Social Work Instructor
Langara College
(Appointed February 1999)

Dr. Angela Henderson
School of Nursing
University of British Columbia
(Appointed December 1998; resigned
September 2002)

Ms. Jill Hightower
Vice Chair to September 2002
Community Volunteer
(Appointed September 1998)

Dr. Margaret Jackson
School of Criminology
Simon Fraser University
(Appointed December 1997)

Ms. Judith Kerr
Queen Charlotte City
(Appointed September 1996)

Rhonda Latrielle
Financial Advisor
(Appointed February 2002)

Dr. George Tien
Vice Chair from September 2002
Info West Consulting
(Appointed May 1999)

Adamira Tijerino
Researcher, PhD candidate
(Appointed February 2002)

Ms. Wendy van Tongeren Harvey
Crown Counsel
(Appointed December 2002)

Dr. Simon Verdun-Jones
Treasurer
School of Criminology
Simon Fraser University
(Appointed September 1989)

Board Committees

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee, subject to the control of the directors, is responsible for the transaction of all business of the directors between meetings.

Chair: Frances Grunberg
Vice Chair: Jill Hightower (to September 2002)
George Tien (from September 2002)
Secretary/Treasurer: Simon Verdun-Jones

Education Committee

This committee is responsible for developing policy and education program direction.

Chair: Simone Fidelman (to March 2003)
Barbara Bain (from March 2003)
Members: Judith Kerr, Shashi Assanand, Adamira Tijerino

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is responsible for developing and controlling the budget and expenditures of the Institute.

Chair: Simon Verdun-Jones
Members: Frances Grunberg, Jill Hightower (to September 2002)
George Tien (from September 2002)

Fundraising Committee

The Board's Fundraising Committee is responsible for developing policy and providing direction for the Institute's fundraising activities.

Chair: Fran Grunberg
Member: George Tien

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is responsible for developing policy and providing direction for the Institute's personnel activities.

Chair: Margaret Jackson (to September 2001)
Jill Hightower (from September 2001)
Members: Judith Kerr, Simon Verdun-Jones (to September 2001)
Frances Grunberg, Barbara Bain (from September 2001)

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee is responsible for developing, on behalf of the Board, draft responses to, analysis of, or comment upon proposed, new, or emerging government legislation or policy initiatives and amendments.

Chair: Rhonda Latrielle
Members: Jill Hightower

Research Committee

The Research Committee is responsible for developing policy, research-program direction, and ethical reviews.

Chairs: George Tien, Derek Eaves
Members: Simon Verdun-Jones, Jill Hightower, Margaret Jackson

Staff, Research Associates, Students and Volunteers

Staff Members

Executive Director:	Penny Bain
Office/Project Manager:	Tracey Moropito
Publications Editor/Researcher:	Kai-Lee Klymchuk (to September 2002)
Resource Centre Coordinator:	Jenny Fry
Project Administrator:	Marion Wong
Administrative Assistant:	Jennifer Childerhose (to April 2002) Jean Leggett (from April 2002)

Contract Positions

Sharon Agar
Laura Kloppenberg
Dave Lyons
Jamala MacRae
Lynne Melcombe
Janice Miller
Katrina Pacey
Kelly Watt

Research Associates

P. Randall Kropp
Stephen Hart
Tonia Nicholls

Summer Resource Centre Assistant

Camille Noel

Computer Consultants

ClientServ

2002 Research Projects

Research projects undertaken by the BC Institute Against Family Violence from April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003 included:

Stalking Risk and Management

Principal Researchers: P. Randall Kropp, PhD, Stephen D. Hart, PhD, and David Lyon, MA

With a grant from the Community Mobilization Fund branch of the National Crime Prevention Centre, the BCIFV has produced an exhaustive literature review and annotated bibliography on risk for stalking behaviour. The literature review will be available for distribution to the public shortly. A comprehensive risk-assessment instrument entitled, *The Guide for Stalking Assessment and Management (SAM)*, has been developed and is in the first stage of testing with the Calgary Police Service's Domestic Conflict Unit. Police officers will be piloting the SAM on stalking cases for a period of five months beginning in April 2003. Feedback from the officers will be used to revise the SAM before it is distributed more widely.

B-SAFER: Brief Spousal Violence Risk Assessment

Principal researchers: P. Randall Kropp, PhD, and Stephen D. Hart, PhD

The *Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk, or B-SAFER*, was developed with the aid of a grant from the Department of Justice Canada. The *B-SAFER* is intended as a relatively brief risk-assessment procedure for use in situations where time-limited assessments are required. The *B-SAFER* is currently being piloted by the Vancouver Police Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit and the Summerside and Charlottetown police forces in Prince Edward Island. The instrument will also be piloted with the Calgary Police Service and with an as-yet unidentified francophone community later in 2003.

Evaluation of CSC Family Violence Programs

Principal researchers: P. Randall Kropp, PhD and Zina Lee, MA

The Correctional Service of Canada has contracted with the BCIFV to conduct an evaluation of its *Moderate and High Intensity Family Violence Prevention Programs*. Six overlapping phases of the evaluation are underway, including:

1. analyses of pre- and post-treatment measurement data;
2. analysis of client feedback and comments;
3. post-treatment follow-up of official recidivism data;
4. follow-up with current partners of participants;
5. follow-up with the participants' parole officers; and
6. piloting of a safety planning protocol with a small sample of victims.

This project will be completed by March 31, 2004.

Femicide Project

Principal researchers: Kelly Watt, BA, Stephen Hart, PhD, and P. Randall Kropp, PhD

Funded by the BC Ministry of Attorney General, this study examined in depth 13 intimate-partner femicides occurring in 1997. The objectives were to identify offender, victim, and system-related risk markers and the interactions among these markers. The researchers employed a narrative approach to describing and analyzing the data. A first draft of the report was prepared and discussed with representatives from the BC Ministry of Attorney General, the BC Coroner's office, and the BCIFV in November 2002. A second draft of the report was recently completed and circulated. Following consultation with interested parties, the BCIFV researchers will make recommendations for an ongoing fatality-review process in British Columbia.

Victim Safety Planning

Principal researchers: Penny Bain, LL.M., P. Randall Kropp, PhD, Stephen Hart, PhD, and Sharon Agar, PhD

With the assistance of funding from the BC Ministry of Attorney General and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), a series of focus groups were held in Vancouver to discuss the development of structured guidelines for victim safety planning in spousal-violence situations. The focus groups included representatives from various victim-serving agencies and government, as well as local and international academic experts, including Angela Henderson of UBC's Department of Nursing, and Jacqueline Campbell of the Department of Nursing at Johns Hopkins University. The focus groups contributed to the production of a draft Safety Planning Worksheet that has now been formatted for piloting with victim-serving agencies in the health and justice sectors. As well, Sharon Agar completed a comprehensive literature review on victim safety planning, which is now available to the public through the BCIFV. Finally, the National Crime Prevention Centre recently awarded three years of funding to the Institute to develop a manual for the Safety Planning Worksheet and to pilot it in settings across Canada.

Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol: The RSVP

Principal researchers: P. Randall Kropp, PhD, Stephen D. Hart, PhD, Richard Laws, PhD, Jessie Klaver, BA, and Kelly Watt, MA

The BC Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission recently provided funding to enable the Institute to further develop and test the RSVP. The manual for the RSVP is now near completion and a proposal to test the instrument with sexual offenders who have been referred to BC Forensic Services has been approved. The authors presented research on prior drafts of the RSVP at several academic conferences in 2002 and early 2003. Upcoming research will continue to focus on the reliability and validity of the instrument and will commence in the summer of 2003.

Women's Health and Decision Making in Abusive Heterosexual Relationships

Principal researcher: Tonia Nicholls, PhD, William Koch, PhD, and P. Randall Kropp, PhD

The Institute is administering a research project for Dr. Tonia Nicholls with the goal of identifying factors that assist or impede women in seeking help and/or leaving abusive relationships. Dr. Nicholls has developed a manual of guidelines for assessing decision making in abusive relationships

and is advertising for study participants. With funding from the Lions Gate Healthcare Foundation for Healthcare Research, SSHRC and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, Dr. Tonia Nicholls, Dr. William Koch and Dr. Randy Kropp are conducting a study to: (1) Examine the impact of serious mental health problems (depression and PTSD) on safety planning; (2) Contrast the accuracy of women's perceptions of their partners' risk for future abuse with the SARA; (3) Empirically demonstrate what keeps women in abusive relationships and use that data to develop a risk needs measure for spouse abuse victims. Results will be available winter 2003.

Impact of Service Cuts

Principal researchers: Colleen Varcoe, RN, PhD, Olena Havanski, PhD, Marina Morrow, PhD

In partnership with the BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Services, and BC Women's Hospital Woman Abuse Response Program and Sexual Assault Service, the BCIFV developed fact sheets and a discussion paper prior to a proposed research proposal to assess the impact of recent service cuts on women who experience violence and their children.

Institute Needs Assessment

Principal researcher: Derek Wilson Consulting Ltd.

Derek Wilson Consulting Ltd. conducted a needs assessment with key stakeholders to determine future directions for BCIFV education and research programs. The Board considered the report at a Policy Retreat in September and developed an action plan based on the assessment results.

Children Exposed to Violence

Principal researchers: Penny Bain LLM and Sharon Agar PhD

The Institute began research to develop best-practices guidelines to assist psychiatrists, psychologists, and counselors of children who witness violence to more effectively assess and treat children who have experienced the psychological impact of exposure to violence in their families.

2002 Education Projects

Education projects undertaken by the BC Institute Against Family Violence from April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003 included:

Canadian Health Network

Project Managers: Jenny Fry and Marion Wong

The Canadian Health Network (CHN), funded by Health Canada, is a national, bilingual, Internet-based health-information service. CHN features 26 virtual 'Health Centres' focused on major health topics and population groups. The Institute is the lead partner of the Violence Health Centre, in collaboration with the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (Ottawa) and Education Wife Assault (Toronto). The Institute is developing FAQ sheets to be posted on the website, and is managing the project. The National Clearinghouse on Family Violence is answering health-information requests and developing relationships with Network Contributors (organizations with resources that are linked to the website). Education Wife Assault is selecting and cataloguing web-based resources to link to the website. Visit the Violence Prevention Health Centre at <http://www.canadian-health-network.ca>.

The Person Within

Project Manager: Tracey Moropito

Although funding for this project ended as of March 31, 2002, requests for the video and handbook continue to come in. Dr. Sally Rogow has been responding to requests to deliver workshops on a volunteer basis. *The Person Within* website has had over 1600 visitors since its inception. With funding, this website could address gaps on other websites regarding prevention of abuse and neglect of children and youth with disabilities. Additional funding could also allow us to respond to numerous requests to extend and adapt *The Person Within* to meet the needs of Chinese, IndoCanadian, and other cultural communities. Multicultural agencies throughout the province have been contacted with the goals of consulting on ways to expand the project and establishing a Multicultural Advisory Council. This council will help us to reach out to various cultural communities, and disseminate important information and provide workshops in these communities. Ultimately, facilitators from these communities would be trained to deliver the workshops.

The BCIFV staff and Board extend heartfelt thanks to Sally Rogow for her ongoing work to end abuse of children and youth with disabilities. Her passion and dedication are deeply appreciated.

International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services

Project Manager: Tracey Moropito

The third annual conference was held in Miami on April 9–12 2003. Tracey Moropito coordinated and attended this event, and BCIFV provided practical assistance. BCIFV continues to maintain and manage the administration and logistics of the IAF with the support of BCIFV staff. BCIFV receives a 15 percent management fee based on all IAF revenue (excluding conferences).

Child Discipline versus Child Abuse in Canada: A Resource for ESL Teachers and Their Students

Project Manager: Tracey Moropito

Tabata Productions produced a video, which accompanies a curriculum guide being distributed to teachers of adult ESL students across Canada. Nancy Li and Patrick May of OPUS Communications wrote a first draft of the curriculum and lesson aids. This was revised by ESL teacher Ann Hinkle, with a legal component contributed by Joan Braun and Key Services section written by Katrina Pacey. Advisory Committee members included Shashi Assanand of VLMMFSS, Catherine Eddy of VSB and TESL Canada, Sarah Chapman-Chen of Westcoast Multicultural and Diversity Services, Joan Acosta of West Coast Reader, Anna Foschi of VLMMFSS, Irene Elhaimer of Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society, and Centina Low of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. *Life in the Family: A Newcomers' Guide to Parenting Issues in Canada* was well received by ESL teachers in a pilot phase. Tracey Moropito delivered a 90-minute workshop at the TEAL 2003 Annual Conference in February.

Assisting Immigrant and Refugee Women Abused by their Sponsor: A Guide for Service Providers

Project Manager: Tracey Moropito

This handbook assists service providers who work with immigrant women in understanding the implications of immigration status when immigrant women who are being abused by their sponsor seek safety. The handbook has been revised and is waiting to go to print, dependent on funding. Budgetary constraints have been an obstacle to providing workshops to those outside of the Lower Mainland who have requested them but required travel subsidies in order to attend. Funding is being sought to remedy this situation.

New BCIFV Publications

The following publications were released during the 2002-2003 reporting year. Limited quantities of these documents are available for purchase. Alternatively, copies may be downloaded and printed from an archive on our website.

BC's Violence Against Women in Relationships Policy and Criminal Harassment: Police Perspectives and Use of Discretion in Investigations (By Katrina Pacey)

Children Exposed to Partner Violence: An Overview of Key Issues (By Kai-Lee A. Klymchuk, Mary Cooper & Katrina Pacey)

Relationship Violence and Diversion: A Literature Review on Pro-charge Policies and Crown Discretion (By Jamala MacRae)

Safety Planning with Abused Partners: A Review and Annotated Bibliography (By Sharon Agar)

Publications Sales

The total revenue received from publications sales during the fiscal year of April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003 was \$11,970. 33. This figure represents a decrease in sales over the previous fiscal year. This is likely due to a decline in the sale of SARA manuals and the installation of more online publication on our website, a practice which will continue in the coming year. The SARA manual remains our best seller, with *The Person Within* video and handbook second, followed by the SVR-20. Sales for *The Person Within* video increased this fiscal year as compared to the last fiscal year, as we are actively promoting this project.

Newsletter *Aware*

Project Managers: Kai Lee Klymchuk (to September 2002) and Lynne Melcombe (from December 2002)

Following the departure of staff editor Kai Lee Klymchuk in the fall of 2002, the Institute hired Lynne Melcombe as contract editor and Ron Woodward as graphic designer to re-launch this important source of information covering the latest programs and research relating to family violence. The result was the very successful spring 2003 issue of *Aware* on the theme of Abuse of People with Disabilities. The next issue is due for fall publication and will address the theme of Healthy Parenting.

BCIFV Website

Project Manager: Jenny Fry

The Institute went online during the 1995/96 fiscal year with the establishment of the BCIFV web page and email access. In the spring of 2000, the library catalogue was put online by Andornot Consulting. The website was professionally redesigned by Raised Eyebrow Web Studio in 2001, with periodic design updates in 2002 and 2003. One new feature is a map of BC with links to community resources around the province; another is the Position Papers web page, with links to BCIFV Board-approved positions on various topics. Numerous links to online publications have been added, as well as full text of some BCIFV publications, making family violence information more widely available and easily accessible. There are also links to the Canadian Health Network (CHN), which in turn plays an important role in linking all Canadian non-profit research centres; and charity.ca, a free online service that enables people to make donations to the Resource Centre and *The Person Within*. The website logged 82,221 visitors in the 2002/03 fiscal year, averaging about 6850 visitors per month. The website is located at www.bcifv.org.

Resource Centre

Project Manager: Jenny Fry

The BCIFV Resource Centre was established in 1993 to provide centralized, cost-effective library services and information in the area of family violence. Services include a province-wide lending library; access to current books, videos, research articles, and journals; reference services; and on-premise photocopying. The specialized quality of the library is a valuable resource to students, researchers, and service providers working in the area of family violence, as well as the media and individuals who are interested in these issues. Jenny Fry continued as the Resource Centre Coordinator. As the second professional librarian in this position, she has continued to apply professional standards to the collection and build the necessary foundations for its future

enhancement and expansion. Librarian Camille Noel was hired over the summer to produce the annual print catalogue; her assistance with cataloguing and organizing the collection was greatly appreciated.

The contributions of volunteers and practicum students have been tremendous once again this year. For their valuable contributions, we thank Camille Noel, Elizabeth Pinsent, Bronwen Fry, Nadeia Nezami, Yasmin Habib, Irene Barsukevich, Erin Hawksworth, Samantha Marciniak, Rebecca Onushko, and Jury Espinoza.

Reference/Referral Requests

Project Manager: Jenny Fry

There were 502 documented requests for information during the 2002/03 fiscal year, arriving by phone, fax, email, mail, and in person.

The Institute receives requests for information from a wide range of people. In 46 percent of cases, calls were from individuals who were either not affiliated with a specific organization or did not mention their affiliation. These individuals were commonly requesting information because of a personal situation, on behalf of a relative or friend, or as a researcher or legal professional. The 54 percent who indicated their affiliation broke down as follows:

- 1% from child/youth-serving agencies
- 11% from women's organizations
- 8% from family-serving agencies
- 7% from educational institutions
- 1% from First Nations organizations
- 6% from multicultural organizations
- 8% from the justice system
- 6% from health care services
- 2% from the media
- 2% from government
- 2% from other groups

The information requested by these groups fell into two broad categories. Twenty percent were crisis calls, which we categorize as calls from victims of violence or victim's relatives urgently requiring a referral. These callers ranged from victims to offenders. The other 80 percent were deemed non-crisis calls. Of these, 25 percent were calls requesting referrals and 75 percent were requests for information on subjects relating to family violence.

Library Memberships

Project Manager: Jenny Fry

At the end of the 2002/03 fiscal year, the BCIFV Resource Centre had 69 members.

Acquisitions

Project Manager: Jenny Fry

The library collection continues to grow as new and relevant books, journals, articles, and videos are published or released. In an effort to reduce duplication, some materials that are available at other institutions (ie, Vancouver Public Library, University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver Community College, etc) will not be ordered for the BCIFV library collection. One of the mandates for the Resource Centre is to have a comprehensive collection with a focus on publications that are not available elsewhere, thereby filling gaps while adhering to the mission of the BCIFV.

Child-Protection Guidelines

Project Manager: Penny Bain

The Executive Director participated with the BC Association of Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Women's Hospital Sexual Assault Service, BC Women's Hospital Violence Against Women in Relationships Program, and the BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses in the development of policy and protocols with the Ministry for Children and Families on child-protection issues in cases involving violence against women and children.

Family Violence Symposium

Project Manager: Penny Bain

The Executive Director participated with representatives of the Justice Institute of BC and numerous other sponsoring organizations in planning a two-day symposium on family violence to held in Vancouver on May 13 and 14, 2002. She presented two workshops on victim risk assessment and safety planning and on family-law issues related to family violence.

Policy Initiatives

In 2002 the Institute, under Board direction, undertook the following policy initiatives:

- **Changes to the BC Crown Pro-Charge Policy**

In 2002 the Ministry of Attorney General, Criminal Justice Branch presented a plan to amend the Violence Against Women In Relationships (VAWIR) Policy to grant individual Crown prosecutors greater discretion over the decision of whether charges should be laid. These changes would expand the powers of Crown prosecutors, allowing them to divert cases and employ alternative measures as opposed to pursuing the strict criminal-justice sanctions required by the VAWIR policy. The Institute prepared a response encouraging the Ministry not to change the pro-charge policy, a position supported by the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group of Ministers of Justice and the BC Police Chiefs. However the Minister announced approval of the policy changes in the spring of 2003.

- **Proposed Changes to the *Divorce Act***

On December 10, 2002, the Minister of Justice announced proposed amendments to the *Divorce Act* relating to the factors to be considered in determining custody of and access to children upon separation and divorce, as well as the terminology to be used in making such determinations. The BCIFV Board adopted a position paper urging the Minister of Justice to amend the proposed changes to improve the safety of children exposed to family violence. The Minister of Justice will consider the proposed changes in the fall of 2003.

Liaison Initiatives

In 2002 the Institute participated on the following community committees or initiatives:

- Minister of State for Women's Equality Working Group On Women's Safety – Penny Bain
- BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses Advisory Committee for the Violence is Preventable Project – Penny Bain
- Vancouver Community Action Committee on Violence Against Women in Relationships – Penny Bain
- BC Children's Hospital Advisory Committee to develop a manual for parents of children exposed to violence – Penny Bain
- BC Women's Health Centre Advisory Committee on Disclosure of Records – Penny Bain
- Advisory Committee for Silent and Invisible: What's Age Got to Do With It? – Penny Bain
- BC Violence Against Women and Children Coalition – Penny Bain
- Link Project: Animal Abuse and Family Violence – Penny Bain
- Legal Aid Charter Challenge Working Group – Penny Bain
- Ad Hoc Custody Group – Penny Bain
- BC AIRS – Jenny Fry
- SRLN BC – Jenny Fry
- First Call – Tracey Moropito

Annotated List of Publications

A Place to Start

(1994) [Video 40 min. with Handbook] (English)

Après L'agression

(1994) [Video 43 min. with Handbook]. (Francais)

This video package is for women who have been assaulted by their partner and who may be going to court as a witness in a criminal prosecution. In the video, women survivors of abuse share their personal experiences. It is available in either English or French.

Professionals, including a police officer, prosecutor and judge, describe what happens when a charge is laid and a case goes to court. The accompanying handbook offers women a step-by-step description of the legal system and court process. Video with Handbook.

Aboriginal Suicide in British Columbia

Cooper, M, Karlberg, A.M., & Pelletier Adams, L. (1991)

This study examined coroner files on all Aboriginal suicides occurring in British Columbia between 1984 to 1989, compared with a geographically matched sample of non-Aboriginal suicides. The report examines the reliability of Aboriginal suicide statistics and prevalence by age, gender and residence. Ecological analyses are described as well as the circumstances leading to the suicides. The views and recommendations of 35 Aboriginals knowledgeable about suicide are included.

Ask the Question: A Resource Manual on Elder Abuse for Health Care Personnel

Pay, D. S. (1993)

This handbook is designed as a rapid reference guide on elder abuse symptoms for primary care physicians and emergency department personnel.

Assessing the Risk of Repeated Violence Among Men Arrested for Wife Assault: A Review of the Literature

Cooper, M. (1993)

This report reviews the literature on risk assessment for the prediction of violence in general and of the risk of recidivism (repeated violence) in the case of wife assault.

BC's Violence Against Women in Relationships Policy and Criminal Harassment: Police Perspectives and Use of Discretion in Investigations

Pacey, K. (2002)

This study asks the question: How do police describe their practice when faced with a victim who is being criminally harassed by an intimate or formerly intimate partner? By looking into this research question, this study proposed to offer insight into current police practice and inform the debate surrounding the application of pro-active policies to criminal harassment.

Challenges in Programming for Wife Batterers

Cooper, M. (1995)

This report reviews published literature on programming for wife batterers. It was written in the context of the project to develop guiding principles for institutional programs. Topics addressed include definitional issues, a review of community program effectiveness studies and the scant literature on programming in an institutional context. A number of issues are identified that need to be addressed to improve program effectiveness and implications for standards and guiding principles are discussed.

Child and Youth Fatalities Reviewed by the BC Children's Commission:

A Family Violence Perspective

Cooper, M. (2001)

This report reviews homicides, suicides and accidental deaths in relation to family violence. The author examines the correlation between homicide and prior domestic violence in the family. She examines the likelihood that family violence played a role in a number of the investigated homicides and explores what the BC Children's Commission learned from the deaths.

Child Custody and Access in the Context of Family Violence:

An Overview and Annotated Bibliography

Cooper, M. (1994)

The second in the Institute's *Series on Interpersonal Violence*, this is a brief overview and annotated bibliography that lists 81 relevant books and articles, with abstracts arranged topically and indexed both by author and subject.

Children Exposed to Partner Violence: An Overview of Key Issues

Klymchuk, K.A., Cooper, M. & Pacey, K. (2002)

This updated version discusses highlights of research produced since 1992, describing the impact of partner violence on children, and exploring, in brief, currently advocated therapeutic approaches for children coping with the effects of exposure to partner violence.

Communities Betrayed: Multiple Victim Child Sexual Abuse in Rural Communities

Kowaz, A.M. & Escudero, D. (1996)

This publication reports on an occurrence of multiple-victim child sexual abuse in a small rural community, perpetrated by an individual who has been a trusted community leader and teacher. Observations about the impact this had on the community and how the community coped form the focus of the report.

Criminal Harassment & Potential for Treatment:

Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography

Cooper, M. (1994)

This literature review was initiated in anticipation of a demand on forensic psychiatric services as a result of Canada's criminal legislative reform of 1993 (Bill C-126, Section 264) on Criminal Harassment, commonly known as the Anti-Stalking Bill. This report examines what is known about stalking and individuals who stalk others. Special attention is paid to the psychiatric literature on disorders or syndromes which can lead to stalking behaviour and treatment possibilities.

Current and Future Effects on Children Witnessing Parental Violence:

An Overview and Annotated Bibliography

Cooper, M. (1992)

The first in the Institute's *Series on Interpersonal Violence*, this is an annotated bibliography of the effects on children who witness parental violence.

Evaluation of Three Assaultive Men's Treatment Programs: a summary report

Kropp, P. R & Bodnarchuk, M (2001)

In May of 1996, an inter-ministerial committee representing the Ministries of Attorney General (Corrections Branch), Health (Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission), and Women's Equality initiated and committed funds to a three year plan to evaluate assaultive men's programs in British Columbia. It is of course impractical to evaluate every assaultive men's community program in the province at once; at last count there were over 40 such programs in existence. Moreover, it is unnecessary to do so given the similarity in structure and design of the programs. There are of course minor variations among them, but all are currently required to adhere to the Guiding Principles for Services in British Columbia. Thus, it was determined that three

programs would be targeted, one for each year of initiative. Each of these evaluations has been published separately by the BCIFV, from which information concerning these studies is available upon request. The purpose of this report is to summarize the most important findings reported in each of these three evaluations. In the final section of this report, we make some comparisons between the three programs and offer a series of recommendations for improving future evaluation efforts.

Guiding Principles for Assaultive Men's Treatment in Correctional Centres in British Columbia

Trimble, D. (1995)

In 1992, *Wife Assault Intervention: Programs for Men, Guiding Principles for Services in British Columbia* (Bell, Browning and Hamilton) was released. Over the last two years assaultive men's treatment has been introduced in most correctional centres in the province. The philosophy and goals of the original Guiding Principles remain an appropriate cornerstone of work with assaultive men whether they are in the community or incarcerated. However, it quickly became apparent that some principles did not apply or needed revision and that new principles needed to be written for programs operating in correctional centres. These principles should be of particular interest and use to people and agencies working with assaultive men.

Identifying Those At Risk For Physically Abusing Children: Literature Review

Cooper, M. (1997)

The purpose of this literature review is to examine the current published knowledge base on assessing the risk of physical child abuse. The emphasis is on ways of detecting those at risk and assessing the degree of risk present. The review is not limited to children known to child protection services, but it does emphasize familial abuse, with only passing attention to the potential for abuse by other types of caretakers (e.g., foster parents, educators, baby sitters, etc.), a topic which warrants separate review.

Starting with an exploration of definitional issues, the review describes what is known about the prevalence of physical child abuse. It then describes findings from current theoretical reviews of causal factors. Risk assessment schemes used to detect problem parenting, need for child protection, and severity of injury are summarized, with special attention paid to the strengths and limitations of these systems. The report concludes with suggestions for designing and evaluating risk assessment protocols.

Looking Back at Child Sexual Abuse: An Overview and Annotated Bibliography

Cooper, M. (1995)

The focus of this review is on adult survivors of child sexual abuse. The overview has been prepared for those who need a brief introduction to current issues, while the annotated bibliography is intended as a resource for those who wish to explore the topic in greater depth. Abstracts of over 100 books and journal articles are presented on the following topics: immediate effects, long term effects, male victims, ritual abuse, emotional trauma, diagnostic issues, post-traumatic stress disorder, borderline personality disorder, dissociative disorder, memory issues, treatment theories, behavioural techniques, family therapy, treatment-outcome studies, self-help publications and legal issues. Subject and author indices are provided.

Manual for the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA), 2nd Edition

Kropp, P. R., Hart, S. D., Webster, C. D. & Eaves, D. (1995)

This 2nd Edition handbook incorporates changes and enhancements to the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA), a clinical checklist of risk factors for spousal assault. It comprises 20 individual items identified by an in-depth review of the empirical literature (Cooper, M. 1993) and by a review of articles written by clinicians with extensive experience in evaluating men who abuse their partners. An expanded introduction includes a discussion of various applications of the SARA, including its use in specialized settings such as correctional institutions. Sections have also been added on coding and communication of SARA findings. The SARA may be used for decision-making purposes by psychologists, psychiatrists and other experienced clinicians, as well as correctional officers.

Program Evaluation: A Review of the Literature for Those Conducting Evaluations

Cooper, M. (1996)

The purpose of this document is to review the range of thinking that exists about how to do program evaluations and why. Evolving philosophies of evaluation are reviewed, a number of different evaluation types are briefly described, and typical "sticky" issues are identified. This is not a "how-to" manual, but provides an overview of the pros and cons of different forms of program evaluation and how program evaluation objectives can be phrased so that they are consistent with, not contradictory to, fundamental program objectives. Suggestions for improving the usefulness of program evaluation are included at the end.

Relationship Violence and Diversion: A Literature Review on Pro-charge Policies and Crown Discretion

MacRae, J. (2003)

This literature review examines pro-charge and pro-prosecution strategies, exploring the consequences of allowing Crown prosecutors the discretion to divert abusers to alternative measures prior to charge approval. As well, this paper examines the creation of domestic violence courts in various Canadian and American jurisdictions and how those courts have utilized diversion as an alternative answer to prosecution within the criminal justice system.

Safety Planning with Abused Partners: A Review and Annotated Bibliography

Agar, S. (2003)

After discussing general assumptions and guiding principles, this paper will consider the various factors that contribute to a victim's risk, as well as the issues of risk management and safety planning.

Sentencing in the Context of Domestic Violence: A Review of the Literature and Analysis of Disposition Data

Palmer, J. (1999)

This review examines the criminal sentencing of violent domestic offenders with specific emphasis on the Canadian judiciary's response. Given the prevalence of domestic assault cases in the courts, those non-fatal assaults occurring within "intimate" relationship serve as the primary focus of this report. In addition to covering issues pertaining to the criminal sentencing of violent domestic offenders, disposition statistics from a large Provincial Court jurisdiction in British Columbia are presented and analyzed.

Setting Standards and Guiding Principles for the Assessment, Treatment and Management of Sex Offenders in British Columbia: A Series of Background Papers

Cooper, M. (1994)

The papers in this publication can be read in one package or disseminated singly. It is suggested that all read the first paper. Within each paper, implications for standard setting are included in the discussion. The papers are: 1) Approaching the literature from a standard setting point of view; 2) Overview of recent theoretical developments; 3) Biomedical approaches to the assessment and treatment of sex offenders; 4) Denial, minimization and deviant arousal: Psychophysiological approaches to assessment of sex offenders; 5) Issues specific to phallometry; 6) Victim involvement in the assessment, treatment and supervision of sex offenders; 7) Risk assessment of sex offenders; 8) Working with sex offenders.

Standards and Guidelines for the Assessment, Treatment and Management of Sex Offenders in British Columbia

Pang, B. & Sturrock, R. (1996)

These standards and guidelines were developed for the assessment, treatment and management of sex offenders in British Columbia. They are intended to assist new and existing sex offender programs in developing and supporting clinical and management practices in accordance with current knowledge in the field. Copies of this 60-page publication were initially distributed to staff by the Correctional Service of Canada, the B.C. Corrections Branch and the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission.

The Person Within: Preventing the Abuse of Children and Young People with Disabilities

Rogow, S., & Hass, J. (1999)

The Person Within explores abuse and neglect of children and youth with disabilities. It gives a voice to young people with disabilities, their parents and caregivers and emphasizes recognizing individual abilities rather than disabilities. Authentic and richly informative, this series highlights the importance of emotionally responsible caregiving in family homes, group homes, schools and treatment facilities.

Through the Looking Glass: Discipline vs. Abuse – A Multicultural Perspective

Staddon, N. (1997)

This manual presents information on parenting and discipline issues that arise with immigrant and refugee families living in British Columbia. Emphasis is placed on increasing understanding between service providers and the newcomer families they serve.

Contents of the manual are directed specifically to the information requirements of line workers with the Ministry for Children and Families in BC. In addition, the manual seeks to set the information within a cultural context accurate about, and sensitive to, immigrant and refugee children and families.

Under Scrutiny: Corporal Punishment and Section 43 of the Canadian Criminal Code

Tijerino, A. (2001)

This literature review looks at the non-legal issues relating to the corporal punishment of children, the lack of consistent and agreed-upon definitions of corporal punishment and/or child physical discipline, the religious roots of the practice of corporal punishment, effects and risk factors, legal analysis and implications of Section 43, and child abuse statistics.

Violence Against Women in Relationships: Intervention Programs for Men Set of 2 books with revised (1996) Guiding Principles

Bell, J., Browning, J. & Hamilton, A. (1992)

This two-part package was developed for use by service providers working with assaultive men in the province of British Columbia. The package includes:

- Revised Guiding Principles for Services in British Columbia
- Program Development Handbook

Wasted Lives: The Tragedy of Homicide in the Family

Cooper, M. (1994)

Report on family homicides that occurred in southwestern mainland B.C. between 1984 and 1992. The purpose of this project was to determine the prevalence and nature of family homicides, assess whether there was prior violence in the relationships, and determine whether there were patterns of risk factors present in various subgroups of homicides. A summary of each case is appended.