



National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence  
(NACAFV)  
“Reducing Family Violence in our Aboriginal Communities”

## CIRCLE OF RESPECT

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Aboriginal Women on the Move (AWOTM)  
7,049 Kilometers of RESPECT!



**Aboriginal Women on the Move (AWOTM)** - Donna Metallic, Sheila Swasson and Chi Metallic are three brave Mi'gmaq First Nation Women who cycled across Canada this summer to raise awareness on the issue of family violence .....7,049 kilometers of respect.

Sheila Swasson (left) is greeted by the Quebec Native Women in Kahnawake,

(Right photo) Donna Metallic and daughter Chi Metallic-Larocque are greeted by one of the councilors from the *Mohawk Council of Kahnawake* upon arrival in Montreal.



### NACAFV

“Our mission is to reduce and, one day, eliminate family violence in our Aboriginal communities”



(Left photo) Representatives from the *World March of Women* show their support for Aboriginal Women on the Move (AWOTM)





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## Welcome to NACAFV's FALL 2006 Newsletter

### Kwey Kakina! Hello Everyone!

As the National Coordinator, I would like to welcome you to the 2006 Fall Edition of *Circle of Respect*, the *National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence's* (NACAFV) quarterly newsletter.

Once again, we've been quite busy over the summer helping with the coordination of *Aboriginal Women on the Move - the 2006 Cross Canada Cycle Tour*. The NACAFV would like to extend a big thank-you to **Jennifer David of Debwe Communications** who coordinated the various press releases as the cyclists entered the different provinces and regions throughout Canada!

*Aboriginal Women on the*

*Move (AWOTM)* arrived in Ottawa on July 16th, 2006. The NACAFV was a bit stretched in resources and was very fortunate and thankful to the following Ottawa resources who helped us out listed as follows:

- **Minwaashin Lodge—Ottawa's Aboriginal Women's Support Centre** for arranging a 'spa day' for the weary cyclists;
- **The Ottawa Sheraton Hotel** for demonstrating good corporate citizenship and kindly donating accommodation.
- **The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC)** for organizing a BBQ lunch in honour of the cyclists. Also, **Theresa**

**Ducharme and Christine Neglia** for their bravery in biking with **AWOTM** all the way to Montreal!!

- **The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP)** for all the help in organizing the various events including the launch from Parliament Hill.
- **Amnesty International representatives** for their support in the bike-out from Parliament Hill.

Also, thank-you to all the supporters who came out and filled the meeting room at the 'Meet'n'Greet' event at the Ottawa Sheraton Hotel.

**Kichi Migwéché Again!**

## TAIWAN VISITS NACAFV

On September 25th the **National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV)** met with a delegation of officials working in the area of Family Violence from Taiwan.

The event was held at the Aboriginal Healing Foundation's Boardroom. Officials from Taiwan were interested to learn about Aboriginal perspectives to the issue of Family Violence and they spoke about their Indigenous population in Taiwan.

They also requested an overview from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Wayne Spear from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation gave the overview and information on the issue of residential schools and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada.

Another presentation was given by Theresa Ducharme from the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC). Theresa spoke to the delegation on the "Sisters in Spirit" Campaign and gave an overview of the work that NWAC will be doing with this initiative. The "Sisters in Spirit" is the campaign that raised awareness of the over 500 Aboriginal women who have gone missing or murdered over the past 20 years in Canada.

The NACAFV gave an overview of the Aboriginal shelter system in Canada and provided the delegation with copies of the report entitled "Ending Violence in Aboriginal Communities: Best Practices in Aboriginal Shelters and Communities".

Our visit was closed with a women's traditional honor song performed by Elaine Shipley, Sacred Child Coordinator from Minwaashin Lodge Aboriginal Women's Centre, Ottawa.

NACAFV would like to thank the Aboriginal Healing Foundation for their kindness in allowing us to use their boardroom....Migwéché!



NACAFV staff (centre of photo), Lindsey Deontie, Anita Olsen Harper, Verna McGregor and Theresa Ducharme (NWAC) with representatives working in the Family Violence area from Taiwan (government and non-profit organizations).



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## Fewer Spouses Calling to Report Abuse: Study

A 10-year study of spousal violence in Canada released yesterday shows that fewer spouses are calling police to report abuse, and those who do are more likely to be aboriginal women or women whose children witnessed it. Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile analyzed spousal violence offenders and their contact with police using data from 1995 to 2004 and Statistics Canada's 2004 General Social Survey.

But in the capital of Manitoba, the province that tied with Alberta for the second-highest rate of spousal homicide after Saskatchewan -- there's no evidence couples are being kinder.

"In Winnipeg, where there's a specialized court and police have a fairly assertive charging policy, (I haven't heard that calls to police have gone down)," said Winnipeg's Jane Ursel, director of RESOLVE, a network of family violence research centres at the universities of Manitoba, Calgary and Saskatchewan.

Reported incidents of spousal abuse may have declined, but the majority -- an estimated 72 per cent -- are never reported to police, according to the 2004 General Social Survey.

"Although there's been an expansion in services designed to assist in reporting and prevention, I don't think you can look at a very deep pattern and assume it can be undone in a short period of time. In our culture, there are a lot of messages that seem to glamorize violence... that say it's appropriate to use force to get your way," Ursel said.

The report also found that half of the women who said they reported spousal abuse to police are aboriginal.

***"Aboriginal women contact police and go through shelters after they've tried everything else and tried to do it on their own --when they need that extra help".***

***Susie McPherson***

"I think that white women seem to have a better support system," said Susie McPherson, provincial speaker for the Mother of Red Nations Women's Council of Manitoba. "They would go to people around them, and they seem to be more private, too," said McPherson in Brandon.

Aboriginal women contact police and go through shelters after they've tried everything else and tried to do it on their own --

when they need that extra help."

Ursel said many studies in Canada show aboriginal women are three times as likely to be victims of spousal abuse as non-aboriginal women, so it makes sense that there would be more aboriginal women reporting incidents to police.

Women whose children witnessed the abuse are more likely to call police, the study found.

Fifty-one per cent called police compared to 25 per cent of women who had no children.

The shame that stops some women from reporting abuse can be trumped by their maternal instinct, McPherson said.

"They put that shame aside when they realize they have to take care of themselves and break away from this so things can be better for their children," said McPherson, who works with foster children in Brandon.

"There's so many resources, people don't have to live like that. I think a lot of women know they need help and the cycle needs to stop.

"It's amazing how deeply (the children) are impacted by these negative things."

[carol.sanders@freepress.mb.ca](mailto:carol.sanders@freepress.mb.ca)

### ***Spousal Violence Stats***

- In the 10-year study period, the rate of spousal violence (per 100,000 men and women) rose to 353 in 1998, peaked at 377 in 2000, then declined steadily to 323 in 2004.
- Only 28 per cent of spousal abuse victims reported it to the police.
- One half of female victims of spousal abuse who said they reported the incident to police are aboriginal.
- Same-sex couples accounted for 2.5 per cent of all spousal abuse reports to police. Of those, 72 per cent involved men in gay relationships.
- Most spouse-abusers were reported to police a single time during the 10-year study.
- Victims were just as likely to be injured from a single incident of spousal abuse (53 per cent) as from repeated or chronic abuse.

***Source: Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile***



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**ABORIGINAL WOMEN ON THE MOVE (AWOTM)**  
**Though the tour is completed, the journey, the message, must continue on!**

*Aboriginal Women on the Move (AWOTM)* safely returned home to their families, friends and community on Tuesday, August 15, 2006

There are so many people across the land that have helped in making our journey a reality, from coast to coast, people have heard about *Aboriginal Women on the Move (AWOTM)*, it is without a doubt that with your support and encouragement *AWOTM* made a difference and became a part of the journey. *AWOTM* greatly appreciates your support and belief in our journey to raise awareness and bringing attention to the issue of family violence. The following are some of the many photos taken of our journey.

Our closing thought to the journey includes: **"Though the tour is completed, the journey, the message, must continue on!"**

*Thank-you to Everyone who supported AWOTM!*



Vancouver, B.C., Launch - May 28, 2006



Honor Song for AWOTM -  
Lloydminster, Saskatchewan



Manitoba Chief signing AWOTM Giant Postcard - National Aboriginal Day , June 21st, 2006



**AWOTM** with Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) President, Beverley Jacobs (left photo).  
  
NWAC hosted a BBQ for AWOTM in Ottawa on July 17th, 2006. Minwaashin Lodge also prepared a Spa Day. The Sheraton Hotel Ottawa kindly donated rooms for the cyclists.



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**Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada Lends Support to  
ABORIGINAL WOMEN ON THE MOVE (AWOTM)**

On July 6th, 2006, [Aboriginal Women on the Move \(AWOTM\)](#) received the following letter from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, 27th Governor General of Canada extending her support for the Cross Canada Cycle Tour.



Her Excellency the Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean  
27th Governor General of Canada

July 6, 2006

Dear Ms. Swasson, Ms. Martin-Metallic and Ms. Metallic-Larocque,

You have undertaken a pan-Canadian journey to raise awareness of family violence among Canadians, more specifically violence taking place in Aboriginal communities. You are carrying a message of hope that is dear to me and that touches me deeply.

You are discovering our country in a way that very few of us will ever have the chance to do. The road you are travelling is as exciting as it is demanding and I am convinced that your determination will help you triumph over the obstacles you are facing. I salute your courage in this undertaking.

Your extraordinary adventure allows you to engage in a dialogue from one end of this country to the other and contributes wonderfully to sending a message of hope not only to Aboriginal women, children and men, but also to all Canadians. You are all contributing to a great cause—breaking a silence that too often surrounds family violence and giving a voice to the victims who suffer its consequences.

On their behalf, I thank you for your commitment. Please know that I will keep you in my heart throughout your journey.

Yours sincerely,

Michaëlle Jean

**BIOGRAPHY**

Jean fled Haiti with her family from dictator [François Duvalier's](#) regime in 1968. Her father, with whom she has recently reconciled, was a philosopher who was tortured under Duvalier's regime and separated from the family for 30 years. The Jean family settled at Thetford Mines, Quebec

As a student at the University of Montreal, Jean received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Italian and Hispanic languages and literature and, from 1984 until 1986, taught Italian Studies while completing a Master of Arts degree in comparative Literature. Jean attended the University of Florence, the University of Perugia, and the Catholic University of Milan to continue her studies in language and literature. Besides French and English, Jean is fluent in Spanish, Italian, and Haitian Kreyòl can read Portuguese.

***While attending university, Jean worked at a shelter for battered women from 1979 until 1987. She later helped establish a network of shelters for women and children across Canada.*** Jean also worked in organizations that helped immigrants to Canada and then later worked for Employment and Immigration Canada (now [Human Resources and Skills Development Canada](#)) and at the Conseil des Communautés culturelles du Québec, where Jean began writing about the experiences of immigrant women

(source: Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia)



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## **Gignoo Transition House Launches Toolkit for Family Violence - *The Healing Journey***



*Gignoo Transition House Inc.*  
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Fredericton, NB., E3A 5H2  
Tel: 1-800-565-6878  
E:Mail: [Gignoo@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:Gignoo@nbnet.nb.ca)



**Public Legal Education &  
Information Service of  
New Brunswick**

**P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB., E3B 5H1  
Tel: (506) 453-5369  
Email: [pleisnb@web.ca](mailto:pleisnb@web.ca)**

One of NACAFV's Board Members is **Natalie McBride, Director of Gignoo Transition House Inc.** Gignoo Transition House Inc. partnered with The Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick (PLEIS—NB) to produce a toolkit entitled, “The Healing Journey.”

Together they were guided by a “Working Group” of key New Brunswick Aboriginal organizations, police and service providers who provided resources on family violence. The working group came together to brainstorm the important information that should be in the kit - information that is often lacking in non-Aboriginal materials about family violence.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE TOOLKIT ARE:**

- To promote awareness of the unique issues and barriers that confront Aboriginal communities generally, and Aboriginal women in particular, in their effort to deal with violence and abuse;
- To provide culturally appropriate resources in a variety of formats that will assist service providers working with Aboriginal people to better recognize and deal with abuse and violence in their interpersonal relationships and in their lives;
- To demonstrate how the various forms of abuse and violence are interconnected and their relationship to other issues such as gender equality, racism, residential schooling, and so on;
- To profile the resources and services that are available to help Aboriginal women and their families deal with violence;
- To highlight the range of legal remedies for family law and criminal law matters that can help Aboriginal people, including those on-reserve, to address the violence they are experiencing; and,
- To explore the traditional and mainstream social and health services that can support victims and families on their road to creating healthy personal relationships.

***The NACAFV is pleased to announce that we have included a complimentary toolkit in the NACAFV membership mail -out with this newsletter.***

**The information in  
the kit is also  
available on the  
Healing Journey  
Website at:**

[www.thehealingjourney.ca](http://www.thehealingjourney.ca)

***Look for your  
Healing Journey  
Toolkit in the  
NACAFV Mem-  
bership mail-out!!***



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Main Nunavut Women’s Shelter Could Close -  
Territory Has Highest Rate of Violence Against Women

**Iqaluit, Nunavut (CP)** - Just days after figures were released showing that Nunavut has the highest rates of violence against women in the country, the territory’s main women’s shelter has announced it will be closing its doors for lack of funding.

Iqaluit’s Agviik Society says the 21-bed Qimaavik shelter in the community will stop accepting new clients Jan. 31 and will shut its doors at the end of March.

The \$600,000 the society receives from the territorial government each year isn’t enough to run the shelter and train and pay its workers adequately, said Agviik board member Sheila Levy.

“For many years we’ve been operating in the red,” she said. “We’ve always had to be bailed out at the end of the year.”

The board of directors decided we couldn’t operate any longer.”

Last week, Statistics Canada released figures suggesting that northern women suffer more violence than any others in Canada. The rate of violence was highest in Nunavut.

Those figures showed violence against women is two to three times as common in the Yukon as it is in the provinces, three to six times higher in the Northwest Territories and seven to 14 times higher in Nunavut.

Southern Canada registers about one female victim of spousal homicide per 100,000 residents. In Yukon that figure is 4.4, and it increases to 7.3 in the N.W.T. and Nunavut.

Qimaavik is routinely full of women and children from across Nunavut, flown there after referrals by social services workers or RCMP officers.

Although Nunavut has three other safe houses, Qimaavik is by far the largest and the only one able to house women and their children for more than a few weeks.

Health and Social Services Minister Leona Aglikkaq says she recognizes the importance of the shelter.

**“Not having a facility for a woman to go to and have a safe place, we put women at risk,” she said. “They have to have a place to go.”**

But before guaranteeing extra funding for the shelter, she wants to see where the first \$600,000 went. As well, she said the Agviik Society must show it can draw on enough volunteer help from the community to be able to do the work.

The building is owned by the territory and the society runs it on behalf of the government.

NACAFV’S UPCOMING 2007 TRAINING FORUM / AGA UPDATE

We are once again in the process of planning for the **NACAFV 2007 Training Forum / AGA**. The tentative date has been chosen for **February 19-21, 2007**.

The format will be similar to last year’s Training Forum / AGA with the first day being training for front-line family violence workers and the second day reserved for presentations. One potential training the NACAFV is considering is from the **Canadian Mental Health Association** entitled, **“Non-Violent Crisis Intervention”**. This one day course is now a basic requirement for anyone entering the social services field.....**stay tuned!!!!**

*Abuse statistic*

80% of women entering treatment for substance use problems have histories of abuse and assault.



## ***Become a NACAFV Member!***

**National Aboriginal  
Circle Against Family  
Violence  
(NACAFV)  
“Reducing Family  
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Communities”**

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**Annual NACAFV  
Membership  
Fee:  
\$50.00**

As we prepare for the upcoming *Training Forum / AGA in February 2007*, we are also gearing up for *membership renewal*.

The National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV) was officially incorporated in 2002. The primary mandate of the NACAFV is to raise awareness of the needs of Aboriginal shelters and transition houses which includes the need for cultural appropriate services. A secondary and tertiary mandate includes that of research, data collection and provision of training support for front-line workers in Aboriginal family violence prevention.

The NACAFV is national in scope guided by a Board of Directors made up of members from across Canada which includes shelters and transition houses located on and off-reserve and membership includes: Status, Non-status, Metis and Inuit.

### **BENEFITS OF NACAFV MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **REGULAR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:**

- Voting rights;
- NACAFV newsletter mail-out;
- Advertising
- Reduced cost of training and conference attendance
- Complimentary copy of materials produced by NACAFV;
- Access to evolving library of resources

#### **WHO CAN BE A NACAFV REGULAR MEMBER?**

- INAC funded shelters (on and off-reserve)
- Aboriginal specific shelters
- Aboriginal second stage housing
- Aboriginal Family Violence Programs
- Aboriginal Outreach Programs;
- Other violence prevention programs accepted at the discretion of the Board of Directors of NACAFV

#### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:**

- Includes the same benefits mentioned above with the exception of voting privileges.

#### **WHO CAN BE AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER?**

- Associate members include any other Aboriginal organization or program that supports services which promote the elimination of family violence and who support the mission of NACAFV.

**Visit our website at: [www.nacafv.ca](http://www.nacafv.ca) to download a  
Membership Application, or call NACAFV at 1-613-236-1844**