



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

CIRCLE OF RESPECT

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NACAFV & Aboriginal Women on the Move Head to the World!

Board members of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV) will be attending the World Conference on Prevention of Family Violence in Banff, Alberta.

The World Conference on Prevention of Family Violence 2005 will bring together a diverse group of international leaders, researchers and policy and program experts to share promising practice in family violence prevention, intervention, support and follow-up.

The presentations will focus on:

- primary prevention and intervention services for victim groups
- policy and/or legal frameworks
- new directions in partnership and leadership, and

linkages between family violence and other social problems.

All topics will be categorized into three main streams:

Knowledge: research excellence and knowledge development

Practice: strategic direction, innovative prevention partnerships, and promising intervention and treatment practices,

Impact: demonstrated and/or measurable outcomes validating existing practices and/or point-

ing to new directions.

The World Conference on Prevention of Family Violence 2005 will heighten global awareness of family violence, strengthen leadership networks and collaborative partnerships, and point the way for a generation free of family violence.

October 23rd, 2005 has been set aside as a pre-conference event with a focus on Aboriginal issues.

The National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence along with Aboriginal Women on the Move will also be having a display booth throughout this event.

The National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV) would like to take this opportunity as well to thank **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada** for sponsoring the NACAFV in order to participate in this important event.

A total of 4 representatives from NACAFV will be in attendance that are representing the various INAC funded shelters from across Canada.



NACAFV DRAW

In the interest of fairness, it was decided by the NACAFV Board of Directors that a draw would be held for the 4th participant at the World Conference on Prevention of Family Violence, whereby, their expenses will be paid. The winning name drawn from membership was Nancy Harasimew from the Fisher River Healing Centre in Manitoba.

Congratulations Nancy!



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Welcome to NACAFV's Fall Newsletter

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

The Board of Directors and staff have been quite busy in running the day-to-day affairs of a national office which includes the securing of adequate core funding for operation. We are thankful to *Indian and Northern Affairs Canada* for funding the NACAFV for another fiscal year.

We have also been busy working on the Best Practices Case Studies. The NACAFV has hired Anita Olsen Harper as lead consultant for this project and she has been traveling, along with NACAFV board members

in their respective region's, to various Aboriginal shelters across Canada since August 2005.

The case studies will profile 10 shelters and highlight best practices in addition to identifying obstacles. The project completion date is scheduled for December 1, 2005 and the NACAFV plans to present the findings at the upcoming AGA / Conference that is scheduled for February 2005. The National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence would also like to thank the Status of Women Canada for providing funding so that this important information can be gathered and shared to not only membership of NACAFV but to other stakeholders dealing with Family Violence.

Another milestone is that the

NACAFV was able to secure funding to attend the World Conference on the Prevention of Family Violence in Banff, Alberta.

Our recurring theme, from an Aboriginal perspective, is that Family Violence is a community / society issue and not just a 'woman's issue', given the fact that, by not addressing this issue it has intergenerational effects as well on our children's children.

Migwéché! Thank-you!

Verna McGregor
National Coordinator,
NACAFV

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Domestic Violence

Hillary Rodham Clinton told conference attendees that domestic violence not only is a crime against individuals, but "it undermines democracy itself. For so long as women are held back from full participation in the lives of their countries by any means - including by the kinds of violence women disproportionately suffer - democracy will remain incomplete." A recent study by the World Bank lent weight to the First Lady's words, concluding that domes-

tic violence takes as big a toll on the global economy as cancer, heart disease, or the virus that causes AIDS



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What's happening in the United States....

Indian Women Still Feel Genocide

By Sam Hurst, Journal columnist

No one likes to talk about the genocide. It was so long ago. What does it have to do with us? That's the way a century washes over the horror. Those who conduct the slaughter will always tell you, "We had to do it." There's always a good reason. Land. Buffalo hides. Manifest destiny. God made us do it.

Then the passage of time rubs off the rough edges. By the third and fourth generation, no one remembers. No one is taught.

About a decade ago, my sister developed an interest in genealogy and for Christmas the family received a report on the Hursts of Tennessee, by way of the Shenandoah Valley, by way of Sherwood Forest. There, staring me in the face, across the centuries, was a photograph of John Hurst, black as charcoal, one of several family slaves. Of course! How could it be otherwise? That was the culture, the economy of the South. Every Southerner is complicit. We have just forgotten ... willfully, arrogantly, forgotten.

In the 12 years I have lived in South Dakota, I have met dozens of people who proudly boast that they are fourth-generation homesteaders. But no one has ever admitted to me that their families participated in the genocide. "What does it have to do with us?"

I am haunted by a passage in a little book, "The Badlands Fox," by Margaret Lemley Warren. She wrote about the adventures of her father, Pete, who ranched along the Cheyenne River at the end of the 19th century. He told her stories of the early days. "We went over and stirred them (Indians) up and a lot of our fellows laid in at the head of a gulch ... and they chased us down Corral Draw ... Riley Miller was a dead shot, and he just killed them Indians as fast

as he could shoot ... We killed about seventy-five of them. Riley Miller and Frank Lockhart went back there and got some packhorses and brought out seven loads of guns, shirts, war bonnets, ghost shirts and things. Riley took 'em to Chicago and started a museum. He made a barrel of money out of it."

I am haunted by this passage because my ranch stares across the Cheyenne River at Corral Draw.

There are a hundred ways that the terror of the genocide continues to ripple through our lives, but none is more explosive than the cruel, hard fact that we beat and rape Indian women as if they were utterly without value. Consider these numbers:

-- Fifty percent of Indian women in America will be beaten in their lifetime. That is twice the percentage of white and black and hispanic women. I find this statistic impossible to believe. I talk to a counselor at the Sacred Circle resource center in Rapid City. "Could this possibly be true at Pine Ridge, or Rosebud, or North Rapid?" She shrugs. "Statistics are hard to gather on the reservations. Women are taught to keep their mouths shut. But I was beaten, and I don't know hardly any women who haven't been."

-- Indian women are raped at twice the rate of all other races.

-- Seventy percent of the violence against Indian women is committed by non-Indian spouses or boyfriends or acquaintances.

-- One in four pregnant Indian women is beaten.

-- Two-thirds of all Indian boys between 11 and 20 arrested for murder, killed the man assaulting their mother.

Is the problem poverty? Yes. Is the problem alcohol and drug abuse? Yes. Lousy law enforcement? Yes. A lack of shelters and court protections for native women? Yes. Is the problem a deeply ingrained sexism in American culture that blames the victims? Yes.

But at its root, the problem is that 500 years of genocide and colonization have made Indian women invisible.

The reservations are isolated, and we easily drift into a dismissive disinterest, as if this is a problem in Bangladesh, or Botswana - far, far away. It's their problem.

That's why it is so important to remember the genocide. It matters ... today, right now, to all of us.

Next month Congress will vote to reauthorize the *Violence Against Women Act*, and for the first time (thanks largely to the work of South Dakota Indian women), the law will create a tribal division within the Justice Department to manage programs for Native women, increase funding for shelters, an inter-tribal sex offender registry, a protection order registry, better training for law enforcement and expand counseling for men.

But make no mistake. There is no silver bullet solution to the problem.

Ask a woman who has worked in the movement against violence and she will tell you that the best place to start is for the whole community to adopt a zero tolerance for violence against women. Women are sacred. There is no excuse for hitting a woman, not one, not ever.



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ABORIGINAL WOMEN ON THE MOVE

GEARS UP FOR THE WORLD!

The ***Aboriginal Women on the Move*** will also be attending the World Conference on Prevention of Family Violence in Banff, Alberta on October 23—26th, 2005.

They will be having a display booth with material on the cycle tour.

The latest opportunity for people to get involved with the tour is through the purchase of post cards that are sold for \$3.00 per card. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will go toward the tour and also to the issue of addressing Family Violence in Aboriginal communities across Canada.



MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH

Aboriginal Women on the Move include:

- Visit our website at:
www.aboriginalwomenonthemove.org
- Tell your friends and contacts about "Aboriginal Women on the Move"
- Download and post our flyer in your community
- Support "AWOTM" through a donation or Sponsor a Kilometer
- In-Kind Contributions
- Support your local Women Shelter (fund-raise, Volunteer)
- Organize an information session on family violence in your community
- Speak Out Against Violence
- Join us as we cycle through your community/region
- Contact ***Aboriginal Women on the Move*** to become a corporate Sponsor for the tour

Statistical Information:

The Hard Facts: Violence Against Women in Canada

- 51% of women in Canada have experienced at least one violence incident as defined by the criminal code.
- 1 in 10 women are victims of violence
- Women between the ages of 25-34 have the highest rate of spousal abuse.
- 1 in 4 women seeking care in the emergency room for any reason is a victim of violence

Read more [statistics](#)

(Source: Canadian Women's Foundation: www.cdnwomen.org)



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A global campaign
to raise awareness
about violence against
women

Look for a Purple Bracelet and Support Ending Family Violence



The National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV) received information about a new campaign that promotes awareness on the issue of violence against women.

The **ONE IN THREE** bracelet was created as a global campaign to raise awareness about violence against women. **ONE IN THREE** is a program of Moxie Company, Seattle, WA, founded by [Cheyla McCormack](#) and [Evelyn Brom](#). Moxie Company is a social enterprise supporting programs and organizations working to end violence against women.

ONE IN THREE women: According to a report written in 2003 by the United Nations Development Fund for Women ([UNIFEM](#)), **ONE IN THREE** women around the world will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime, and countries are not doing enough to Stop the Violence. The report called [Not A Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women](#) finds that "despite progress at the international, national and grassroots level to address gender-based

violence, there has not been a dramatic reduction in violence against women."

ONE IN THREE women are directly affected worldwide: our mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, aunts and friends. It is you. It is me. It is us - we are all affected.

Your support in wearing the **ONE IN THREE** bracelet will help end violence against women.

FUNDRAISING POTENTIAL FOR NACAFV MEMBERS

The **ONE IN THREE** bracelet can help your [fundraising efforts](#) and will let people know about what your organization offers.

The **ONE IN THREE** wristband is priced at \$2.00 per wristband and sold in sets of 50.

Shipping is \$3.85 per set. Please contact us for large order or international shipping rates.

ONE IN THREE bracelets make great gifts for donors, friends, family, constituents, and conference attendees.

For more information, visit **ONE IN THREE** at:

www.oneinthreewomen.com

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Alarming Rates of HIV/AIDS for Canada's Aboriginal Women

by TRACEY PRENTICE

>From the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network

Aboriginal women are greatly over-represented in HIV/AIDS statistics, yet there is a startling lack of gender-specific, Aboriginal-specific, HIV/AIDS resources, programs and services to support them.

Aboriginal women are the caregivers of their communities, and while they have repeatedly shown themselves to be strong, resilient and undaunted by hardship, they can not be expected to bear the burden of HIV/AIDS in Aboriginal communities alone. Governments, communities and AIDS services organizations must recognize their responsibility to Aboriginal women and begin to provide the Aboriginal, women-specific research, programs, services and supports they need.

The rate of new HIV infections among Aboriginal women in Canada has been steadily increasing over the past two decades. Aboriginal women now account for approximately 50% of all HIV-positive test reports among Aboriginal people, compared with only 16% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts (2003). Aboriginal women comprise nearly 25% of reported AIDS cases among Aboriginal people, while non-Aboriginal women account for only 8.2% among non-Aboriginal cases (2003).

Alarmingly, a large and increasing portion of HIV infections are occurring in young Aboriginal women between 15-29 years old. Between 1985 and 1995, roughly 13% of HIV-positive test reports among Aboriginal women were in young women in this age group. However, this percentage has increased steadily to approximately 37% in 1998,

and 45% in 2001.

Injection drug use (IDU) is the main mode of HIV transmission for Aboriginal women, followed by heterosexual contact, sometimes with partners who use injection drugs. In 2002, 64.9% of reported AIDS cases among Aboriginal women reported their exposure category as injection drug use, and 30.9% reported the mode of transmission as heterosexual contact (2003). Research studies with injection drug users in Vancouver indicate that Aboriginal women are over-represented in the IDU population, and consequently, are over-represented in HIV positive test reports with IDU as the known mode of transmission.

Of the many factors that increase Aboriginal women's vulnerability to HIV infection, a common undercurrent is colonization. Intensive and sustained efforts on the part of the government to colonize Canada's Aboriginal peoples have had affects on the socio-economic status of Aboriginal women. Aboriginal women are twice as likely to be poor than their non-Aboriginal counterparts, and they are more likely to live in an environment where substance abuse and spousal violence are widespread. These socio-economic conditions are strongly associated with a positive HIV test result for Aboriginal women, and they contribute to the creation of harsh living environments in which techniques used to simply survive often include high-risk behaviours, such as rural to urban migration, homelessness, sex trade and/or sex work, injection drug use and alcohol abuse.

There are also many factors associated

with gender, and a power imbalance between genders, that increase Aboriginal women's vulnerability to HIV infection. For instance, studies show that repeated physical and sexual abuse is strongly associated with a positive HIV test report, and that Aboriginal women are significantly more likely than non-Aboriginal women to have experienced all kinds of violence, including physical and sexual abuse.

When women are forced or coerced into having sex against their will, the likelihood of contracting HIV is increased; their abusers are unlikely to wear condoms and women are unable to insist that they do so. As a result, the likelihood of tears or abrasions to the women's genitals is increased, which in turn, increases the likelihood of HIV transmission.

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Alarming Rates of HIV / AIDS cont'd

Repeated sexual or physical abuse affects women's vulnerability in other ways as well. Women who experience abuse are highly likely to be poor, have limited access to education and employment, have low levels of self-esteem and often turn to alcohol and drugs as a way of coping and reducing the pain or post-traumatic effects of sexual abuse and other traumas. The experience of abuse often results in powerlessness in intimate relationships and an inability to negotiate safer sex, even during consensual sex.

It is clear that we need to develop a national response to HIV/AIDS that is designed, developed and implemented by Aboriginal women. Aboriginal women and Aboriginal women with HIV/AIDS must be integral in the design and delivery of these initiatives. In particular, we need to have targeted prevention and educational initiatives for Aboriginal women in relation to IDU, and we need to target prevention and educational initiatives for Aboriginal women between 15-29 years old.

We also need to make sure these programs address:

Substance abuse:
*Provide short and long-term supports for Aboriginal women struggling with addictions.

Poverty:

*Since poverty is directly related to HIV vulnerability, increasing meaningful job opportunities and job training for Aboriginal women will, over time, decrease their vulnerability to HIV infection.

Power:

*HIV prevention efforts for Aboriginal women must also begin to address the imbalance of power that is often a feature of intimate relationships. Prevention and education must target Aboriginal heterosexual men as well as women, and prevention efforts must address domestic and sexual violence against women.

*We must develop cultural sensitivity training for health professionals to equip doctors, nurses, and other health practitioners with appropriate skills to communicate about HIV with Aboriginal women.

Many Aboriginal women do not have the information or the skills they need to protect themselves from HIV, and many HIV positive women live in isolation and fear of having their status revealed. On the whole, however, the voices of Aboriginal women have not been silenced, nor have their spirits been dampened. On the contrary, Aboriginal women, and Aboriginal HIV positive women are speaking out in record numbers, offering their experiences to others as learning tools, telling their stories, breaking down stereotypes, acting as role-models, and changing the way we think about Aboriginal women living with HIV/AIDS. For this they may be applauded. For this, they must be respected. In this, they must be supported.

For the full report on HIV/AIDS and Aboriginal women, children and families, visit: www.caan.ca or call: 1-888-285-2226.

Planning for NACAFV's AGA / Conference

The Board of Directors and staff of NACAFV are currently in the process of planning the upcoming Annual General Assembly and Conference that will be held in Ottawa, Ontario in February 2006. We will be getting in touch with membership when an exact date is chosen. One of the biggest challenges is the access of funding to host an AGA /

conference.

We are hoping to have a training conference, whereby, conference participants acquire training from attendance with a theme of “Tools to Stand Strong! - Family Violence Strategies for Aboriginal Front-line Workers”stay tuned!!

“Our women and children need to know that they have a safe place to go to in a family violence crisis situation”

Aboriginal Elder



Become a NACAFV Member!

National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV)

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We're on the web at:
www.nacafv.ca

As we prepare for the upcoming AGA in February 2006, 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 to download a
Membership Application, or call NACAFV at 1-613-236-1844**