



# NACAFV Winter Edition

## Status of Women to Commit Funding to Aboriginal Family Violence Issues

The Status of Women held a consultation meeting in Ottawa December 9 & 10, 2003 to discuss its commitment to allocate the funds it receives through the Family Violence Initiative. For the period of 2003—2007, the Women's Program will provide Family Violence Initiative funds totalling \$1,000,000 to support national multi-year initiatives by Aboriginal women's organizations to address issues of violence against Aboriginal Women. At the same time, the Women's Program funds will continue to be made avail-

able to carry out initiatives at local, regional and national initiatives to address different issues, including violence against Aboriginal Women.

The objective for the Family Violence Initiative is to reduce the occurrence of family violence in Canadian Society.

The mandate of the FVI is to:

1. Promote public awareness of the risk factors of family violence and the need for public involvement in responding to

the problem.

2. Strengthen the ability of the criminal justice, housing and health systems to respond to the problem;
3. Support data collection, research and evaluation efforts to identify effective interventions.

### National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence

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## Women of the Dawn

by Wenona Gardner

I am the heart of my family  
I am the center of my community.  
I carry the life of tomorrow in my soul.  
I rise above the violence.  
Bones heal.  
Bruises fade.

My fear I face.  
The rage I channel to protect myself.  
To protect my children.  
I walk away from the destruction with Great Creator by my side.  
I am the one who can change the tide.

I am the one who will say STOP!  
No more forever.  
For I am the Woman of the Dawn.  
I rise with the morning sun. Blazing with light, love and hope. I hold the future within me.

# "Remembrance and Honor to Victims and Survivors of Violence"

by: Sheila Swasson

Haven House, a native women shelter located in the Mi'gmaq First Nation community of Listuguj, held a special day of "Remembrance and Honor to Victims and Survivors of Violence" on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003. This special day coincided with the National Day of Remembrance and Action in recognition of the 14 young women who were tragically murdered in Montreal, Quebec in 1989. Haven House organized a special day in the memory of these young women and others who are victims of violence and those who are survivors of violence and abuse.

The "Day of Remembrance and Honor" commenced with a Smudge Ceremony followed by a Pipe Ceremony and Prayers to the Creator in the four directions by Glenda Wysote. Family members and friends of victims were present to pay tribute to the memory of those who died in result of violence. Chief Allison Metallic and Haven House Supervisor, Sheila Swasson, made Welcome Remarks to those in attendance.

Sheila brought attention to the stag-

gering statistics in regards to violence in our country;

*(Statistics from the Rose Button Campaign, YWCA, Status of Women Website)*

*Of all victims of crime against a person...women and girls make up;*

*80% of criminal harassment (stalking)*

*85% of sexual assaults*

*87% of spousal violence victims*

*From 1991 - 1999: 1 872 women have been victims of homicide, that is almost 2 000 women, that's more than 200 dying a violent death every year.*

No weapons are needed to battle against violence in our communities. We must all make the conscience decision that all forms of violence are UNACCEPTABLE. The strongest weapon we have is our "voice", voice is a powerful tool to deliver the message - ZERO TOLERANCE. It is everyone's business and everyone is urged to be a part of the solution... speak out against violence.

The special day of remembrance continued with a "Talking Circle", followed by everyone joining hands in a Circle as the song "The Rose" was sung by Mrs. Norma Jean Martin. Before lunch was served, Guests, family members and friends and Haven House Staff were invited to take part in another ceremony that was held outside of the shelter. The ceremony began with the Mi'gmaq Honor Song, sung by Glenda Wysote and Blanche Martin. Five white balloons with the four colours of the Medicine Wheel were released in the memory of those whose lives were lost due to violence, one balloon was released for the Missing Women from Downtown Eastside Vancouver and another White Balloon was released for our missing sisters. December 8<sup>th</sup> was a very special day and empowering for those who attended.

## NACAFV to establish Advisory Committee

NACAFV has been given direction by its board of directors to establish an advisory committee for the year 2004-2005.

The Advisory Committee will work in collaboration with NACAFV office to strategize around NACAFV mandate and it's priorities for next fiscal year. Develop an effective communication and lobbying strategy.

To all interested NACAFV members, NACAFV is accepting applications from those individuals interested in applying for a volunteer position on its working group committee.

All applicants must be willing to travel and available to participate at all meetings scheduled. Travel expenses to be covered by NACAFV based on treasury board guidelines.

Application form available through NACAFV head office by either calling (613) 236-1844 or via email at [www.nacafv.ca](http://www.nacafv.ca).

# Ending Violence Against Women Must Be A Global Priority

One in three women around the world will be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime, and countries are not doing enough to stop the violence. This is the conclusion of *Not A Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women*, a new report released last month by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The report finds that, despite progress at the international, national and grassroots levels to address gender-based violence, there has not been a dramatic reduction in violence against women.

"We must make the eradication of violence against women a serious global priority. Clearly efforts so far have brought results there are better legal frameworks and policies, awareness and partnerships, including with men and youth," said Noeleen Heyzer, UNIFEM Executive Director. "And yet, women do not appear to be substantively more free from violence

than they were a decade ago. We are walking up a down escalator. There are structures and processes that generate violence. We need to break the cycle of violence by ensuring that women have the voice and power to assert their priorities in an increasingly violent world."

*Not A Minute More* is designed to provide advocates who are working to end violence against women with a snapshot of what has been achieved so far and what more remains to be done to end violence. The report charts the progress of the movement to eliminate gender-based violence and highlights successful violence prevention initiatives that have been implemented in countries around the world. It looks at the challenges the movement will face in the future including globalization and the spread of HIV/AIDS and it offers recommendations to develop a universal framework to eliminate violence

against women.

The report is based on a series of regional reviews of violence prevention efforts conducted by UNIFEM in 2002. The review looked at the prevalence of violence against women and explored the efforts that have been made to eliminate gender-based violence and raise awareness of the issue. UNIFEM released the report to coincide with International Women's Day on November 25. It also marks the tenth anniversary of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, when women's advocates succeeded in placing women's rights issues on the international agenda for the first time.

*Not A Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women* is available through UNIFEM's website: [www.unifem.org](http://www.unifem.org)

## NACAFV Special Announcements

Since our last newsletter a few changes have occurred:

Ernestine Gladue, a founding member of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence and Executive Director of the Family Support Centre in the Northwest Territories has decided to retire. Ms. Gladue has provided years of support and services regarding surrounding family issues. She has also given us her gift of wisdom to continue with our mission of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence.

In Health and Happiness, we wish you all the best Ernestine.

Eunice Pinay, Executive Director of Qu'Appelle Haven, Saskatchewan and a former Board member of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence has moved on to new challenges. We will miss you and best of luck with your future endeavours.

Ariel O'Neill, Executive Director of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence has accepted a position with a shelter located in Ottawa.

Best of Luck with the new job Ariell!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence we would like to extend our warmest wishes to everyone and a safe and prosperous new year!

# Network Group Established for Aboriginal Shelters in Quebec

by France Robertson

Since April 2003, QNWA created a network for aboriginal shelters in Quebec allowing them to meet their training needs, provide support and exchange information on family violence. As a majority of shelter directors in Quebec speak French as their second language and don't speak any English, the need was there to establish a network for the aboriginal shelter directors in the province of Quebec.

Network members are:

- Ashpukun Mitshuap de Schefferville
- Asperimowin de La Tuque
- Foyer pour femmes autochtones de Montreal

- Maison communautaire Missinak de Quebec
- Haven House de Listuguj
- Tipinuakan de Sept-iles
- Waseya House de Kitigan Zibi
- Projet maison de la famille d'Obedjivan.

In November 2003, QNWA and their newly formed network group held their first official meeting with 20 speakers that took part in the session. A framework was formed based on the problems, monitoring and tracking and the intervention of spousal abuse.

February 10-11 is the next training course that will focus on children who

are exposed to family violence.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information about the network of aboriginal shelters in the area of Quebec, you may email at [frobertson@qnwafaq.com](mailto:frobertson@qnwafaq.com)

On behalf of the aboriginal shelters in Quebec and myself, I'd like to wish you all a very festive season.

## Native Women in Northwest Territories get Funding

Press release issued October 28, 2003

The Honourable Ethel-Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State and Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic has announced on behalf of the Honourable Jean Augustine, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Status of Women) a grant of \$100,000 will be provided to The Native Women's Association of Northwest Territories.

"Overcoming barriers to the Full Participation of Aboriginal Women in Business" an 18 month initiative will address issues/barriers that aboriginal women face which affect their participation in the business world.

A process of consultation and planning workshops will address eight specific issues including child care and gender equality in business. This initiative will help aboriginal women overcome attitudinal, policy, financial and family barriers which prevents them from participating in the business sector.

The Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories provides training and education programs for Aboriginal women within the Western Arctic.

For more information please contact:  
The Native Women's Association of

the Northwest Territories  
5017—49th St  
P.O. Box 2321  
Yellowknife, NWT  
X1A 2P7

Tel: (867) 873-5509

Email: [reception@nativewomen.nt.ca](mailto:reception@nativewomen.nt.ca)

# Institute Working with Aboriginal Women To Address Barriers to Social Justice

Press released issued November 18, 2003

An 18 month initiative known as "Achieving Social Justice for Aboriginal Women in Alberta" was announced by Honourable Anne McLellan, Minister of Health and Member of Parliament on behalf of the Honourable Jean Augustine, (Multicultural and Status of Women), a grant of \$100,000 to assist with developing tools and techniques regarding social injustice within communities and Canadian Society that Aboriginal women are often having to deal with.

This initiative will work with Aborigi-

nal women in communities across Alberta to help identify the systemic barriers and needs they face. Also provide them with support of dismantling these barriers and the strength to fight social injustice.

The Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women is a non-profit organization dedicated to promotion, improvement and self-fulfillment of Aboriginal Women within the concept of self-government and community.

For more information, please contact:

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## Violence Against Women is Wrong By: Angela Point

Violence against women continues to be a significant and persistent social and economic problem. Studies show that \$1.5 billion to \$4.2 billion is spent in Canada alone on the prevention and treatment of violence. Aside from the cost, there are also serious psychological and social impacts that are hard to measure.

There is a strong link between stalking and other forms of violence. 57% of stalkers have or had intimate relationships with their victims.

Studies show that 81% of women who are stalked by their current or former partner were also physically as-

saulted. The same survey states that 21% of stalking occurred before the relationship had ended, and 43% of the women said it happened after. It also states that 36% said the stalking occurred both before and after the relationship ended.

Women under the age of 25 are among the highest risk group, especially if they try to leave a relationship. Aboriginal women are also particularly vulnerable to violence; the homicide rate for aboriginals is more than 8 times the rate for non-aboriginal women.

Pregnancy does not always result in

less violence; 21% of victims of violence were abused during pregnancy. Low income and alcohol abuse by male partners is also linked to higher rates of assaults. BC has the highest rate of violence against women at 59%. On average, 110 women are killed in Canada every year by their partners.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the figures I used were only for female victims. Studies have a high percentage for women because men very rarely report the violent crimes committed against them by their partners.

## 2004 Health Related Days

### January

Jan 19-25 National Non-Smoking Week [www.cctc.ca](http://www.cctc.ca)

### February

National Heart Month  
[www.heartandstroke.ca](http://www.heartandstroke.ca)

### March

National Nutrition Month, Red Cross Month, National Kidney Month and National Epilepsy Month.

Mar 2-8 International Women's Week

Mar 8 International Women's Day

If you would like to add anything to our Health related days or would like to submit an article, please feel free to send your material to NACAFV head office by fax: (613) 236-8057 or via email: [nacafv@bellnet.ca](mailto:nacafv@bellnet.ca)

## National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence

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**Our mission is to reduce and one day eliminate  
family violence in our Aboriginal communities**



**Our objectives are to promote public awareness of and work to eliminate family violence in our aboriginal communities; to conduct research, gather, maintain and disseminate information respecting family violence; to encourage and provide assistance in the formation and operation of family violence support shelters and family violence prevention centres; work to bridge gaps between non-government organizations and federal, provincial and/or territorial governments with respect to the issue of family violence; coordinate action on national issues of importance and concern respecting family violence in aboriginal communities; to initiate and develop projects of common benefit to family violence support shelters and family violence prevention centres and to provide assistance to aboriginal family violence shelters.**

## Kids Have Stress TOO!

Stress—or rather its negative effects—have now been acknowledged as a public health issue. As the recent series of articles on stress in *The Globe and Mail* indicated, the research is now abundantly clear—stress is not just an adult phenomena. In fact, it can start in the womb.

Stress can affect children's physical, emotional, social and intellectual well-being. The good news is that something can be done about it. Experts agree that parents have a key role to play here both role modeling stress management techniques and helping to keep stress at bay.

Kids Have Stress Too! (KHST) is all about helping parents and caregivers understand childhood stress and how

to provide kids with a tools to deal with stress effectively. It is a broad-based primary prevention program, that can be easily adapted to suit community needs.

KHST! Is a project of the Psychology Foundation of Canada (PFC) and was developed in collaboration with Toronto School Board's Stress Management Committee. The groundwork for the program is based on the work of Dr. Harold Minden, Professor Emeritus at York University and author of *Two Hugs for Survival*. Dozens of professionals who work with children in a variety of settings, from the classroom to the clinic, have helped develop, review and refine KHST! Parents have also provided their input

through focus groups and interviews. Psychologist at York University are coordinating the evaluation research.

The program was officially launched in December 1999 at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Since that time, over 800 professionals, from public health nurses, to early childhood educators and social workers, have taken KHST! Facilitator training. They are now using the knowledge they have gained to reach parents and children in a variety of ways from workshops to community awareness projects.

To find out more about KHST! And facilitator training opportunities please go to their website at [www.kidshavestresstoo.org](http://www.kidshavestresstoo.org)