

6:45 Jan meets Fritz in Hallway (she is accompanied by her EA Jen O'Callaghan and our Communications Director John Tuckwell)

7:00

I am honored to welcome you to the traditional lands of the Cree. To start our program, we are privileged with the presence of Elder Linda Oldpan from Ermineskin First nation, who will Open our ceremonies first with a prayer and blessing.

Please welcome ASANI for o Canada.

Hello everyone, and welcome to the 2011 ACWS Outcomes Conference! We have staff from 39 shelters, with more than 130 delegates, including some shelter community partners such as the Edmonton Police Service, Solicitor General and Alberta Children and Youth Services.

In September 2008, ACWS took a small gamble – and invited shelter workers from around the World to attend the first ever World Conference of Women's Shelters. More than 800 showed up! At that conference, we supported one another; laughed together and wept together. But how we learned from one another! And then, in concert with eight dedicated shelters, we implemented and evaluated some of those learnings in the Practical

Frameworks for Change Project. You will learn more about this project at the Plenary Session tomorrow.

The report from the project is available on the web, and on the Flash Drive in your goodie package - but also each shelter will receive one printed copy – along with another major ACWS initiative that has just been completed, Abuse Of Older Adults: Guidelines For Developing Coordinated Community Response Models. If your shelter director is not in attendance, we would ask that one of your take these documents back to them for your shelters use.

Everyone in this room knows that it is shelters who have developed strong expertise in responding to the needs of abused women and their children - if anyone is a mathematician – or a computer whiz – they might want to add up the years and tears of expertise there is in this room. It is truly amazing.

There were so many positive outcomes from the World Conference - one being the formation of the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses. As you may know, ACWS is the fiscal agent for this project – which is bringing shelters together as well to learn and support one another. We are starting with the WOW's project (Ways of Workings) and after narrowing it to Preventing Domestic Homicide of Women: An Intervention Guide

Safety Circles: A Collaborative Safety Planning Process for Women in Crisis and the one that was chosen by the network for piloting, Creating Inclusive Spaces for Women. So we will be looking for an Alberta shelter to work with their colleagues across the country to implement and evaluate this tool! Copies are at the ACWS information desk.

We are joined today as well by two very important colleagues from Ottawa, Tracy Gierman and Joyce Goodhand - Tracy is the Executive Director of the Canadian Network, and Joyce is a former shelter director and now truly living up to her last name as Tracy's other hand. They would be pleased to tell you more about the Canadian Network and what is happening.

Another way we are collaborating – and another fantastic result of the World Conference is the Global Network of Women's Shelters - and while I was unable to attend on behalf of the Canadian Network, Tracy was able to attend and work with another very exciting initiative. We were very pleased last fall to be approached by UNIFEM to develop a virtual knowledge centre on creating safe places for women and girls - so we are pulling together information from around the world to help inform shelter practice.... The next World Conference will be held next March in Washington DC and we look forward to strong representation from Alberta -

we have been working with members and have developed a number of strong presentations.

We would like to acknowledge the presence of Dianne Altweiser, from Calgary United way, who has so generously contributed to our children's project, and some of you may have signed to attend the Children's training on Friday, where the brand new curriculum for children is piloted. Stay tuned for further information on the children's project which will be starting up very soon. We know there is strong interest in this project as some of you have already indicated your interest in participating. We also would like to acknowledge Susan Taylor and Pat Hagemann, from ACYs, ACYS who has not only helped in their support of this project, and contributed to the conference, but supports shelters across the province – and ACWS.

And finally, we are now accepting nominations for the Joie Dery Award. Joie was our former ACWS past president - the one who was prepared to take on the risk of hosting a world conference, but also a woman who for more than 25 years, played a key role in growing the association into what it is today. Joie worked for two decades at the Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre in Cold Lake, helping women and children in that community escape and heal

from domestic violence. Under her leadership, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters successfully advocated for increased salaries, benefits and training for shelter workers Joie's tireless commitment to social justice and to abused women is an example for us all. We are looking for nominations of a crisis counselor you know who

- ✿ has an exceptional ability to support and advocate on behalf of the women they work with
- ✿ Exudes a positive attitude
- ✿ Serves as a role model to others
- ✿ Shows sound use of professional judgement on a continuous basis
- ✿ Is committed to personal growth and increasing their own knowledge with respect to current developments in the field of domestic violence
- ✿ Provides leadership in their professional community with respect to domestic violence issues, and
- ✿ Exhibits Joie Dery's strong desire for social justice

All the training sessions are being video-taped so that we will be able to utilize the wonderful learnings from the conference for future webcast and so they can be shared more broadly amongst our colleagues. If you do not wish to be videotaped please let us know and we will accommodate your needs.

Take time to stop by the ACWS Information Table all items at the table are available on our website - if you require a hard copy please speak to one of our staff and participate in the Conversation

Cafes – for all of you who want to know more or have questions about Outcome Tracker or about ACWS.

You will also find in your package the Alberta Data Count – the second annual - and part of our initiative with our colleagues all around the world.

And I now would like to call upon our fearless President of ACWS , Barb Young for her introductory comments.

Closing Remarks

Carolyn

As you can see from the program, ASANI's last song is sung in honor of the many amazing Aboriginal women who are working for all of us on a daily basis with little recognition. We would particularly like to acknowledge the efforts of one of those women this evening. Many of you may have heard already that Kathleen Gorman, Senior Manager with ACYS, and a friend to many, is leaving ACYS shortly. Kathleen has worked tirelessly with members of the Long Term Working Group to define a new working relationship with ACYS – and truly understands the challenges shelters face in meeting the needs of abused women and children.

She is the type of manager who truly gets it - and will be sincerely missed. On behalf of ACWS we would like to thank Kathleen for her dedication, support, honesty and integrity - and we wish her well - we wish her happiness – and we wish her success - as she moves forward to finish her degree. Kathleen if you would like to come up and accept this small token of our appreciation for the work we have done together.

Jan

I want to say thanks to all the wonderful people who helped us with this conference. Barb has already thanked our sponsors but I would like to start with all the wonderful presenters who are willing to add to their already enormous workload by preparing presentations and spending time with you to share their shelter practices.

Secondly to our conference advisory committee members who even took on more: Ian Wheelicker, Bernice Sewell, Dianne Finch and Mary Ellen Proctor. They helped us develop the programme, ensuring that we had an agenda that met the needs of a very diverse group – who are our member shelters.

To our volunteers

And last but not least to our phenomenal ACWS staff – who in this one week alone completed the Alberta Data Count, organized an ACWS Board meeting, supported two days of On R....

- Carolyn Goard, Director Member Programs & Services
- Ken Seto, Finance and Information Management Administrator
- Agnieszka Wyka, Communications and Partnership Advisor (Mat Leave)
- Charleen Shaw, Office Administrator
- Dorothy Sam, Project Manager: Walking the Path Together
- John Ratcliff, Program Director for Domestic Violence and the Workplace
- Jennifer Ness, Administrative Assistant Projects