

WHAT'S INSIDE

Coordinator's message	2
2nd Annual HOMES Training	3
2005/2006 Statistics	3
Danger/Risk Assessment Training	4
It's our Business	5
Update on Mexico	6
Violence Against Seniors	7



Continued on page 5

Breakfast with the Boys – Men talk about family violence

On November 3rd, three hundred local businessmen will join Edmonton's Mayor Stephen Mandel and Edmonton Eskimos' CEO Hugh Campbell for an early morning breakfast and discussion about how men can get involved in ending domestic violence.

One of America's leading anti-sexist male activists and founder of the Mentors in Violence Program at Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, Jackson Katz, will speak to key members of the community to challenge them to influence others to end the cycle.

In Calgary, on November 17, Katz will speak to area businessmen at a similar event hosted by honorary chairs, The Honorable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, and NHL hall-of-famer Lanny McDonald.

Katz has created award winning videos, appeared on Oprah, Good Morning America and many other radio and television programs.

His message will help to identify ways to make a difference – how we can make family violence stop.



Jackson Katz

Message from the Provincial Coordinator



It's been a busy year, full of transition, celebration and reflection. We welcome new staff and directors at our member shelters, as well as new board members. We look forward to working with our new team members in the year to come and we celebrate recent news that on-reserve shelters are receiving additional dollars this year. We have had many successes over the last year including acceptance to attend an international conference on family violence in Mexico. ACWS gathered an impressive Alberta delegation that included Sharon Meredith from the RCMP, Linda Goyette, Editor of *Standing Together*, Pat Vargas from "A Safe Place" and Janet Gladue from "Bigstone" women's shelter. We met many strong women working towards the same goal – a world free from violence and abuse.

As we reflect on our successes and on-going projects, we know that there still is work to be done. Women and children continue to die preventable deaths and an endless stream of domestic related violent incidents continues to plague our communities. Together we must remain diligent in our work with service providers, government and policing agencies to ensure the proper prevention, crisis management, intervention and outreach services are in place. This November, as we observe Family Violence Prevention Month across Alberta, we must remember that we are all responsible for preventing abuse and violence. Our goal this year is to encourage the community to learn how they can help and to support local women's and senior's shelters in their efforts to keep the community safe. ACWS would like to thank Mayor Mandel, Hugh Campbell, Kelly Buchberger, Lanny McDonald, Minister Prentice, Shaw Communications, Pattison Outdoor, Global TV, Corus Radio and the Bank of Montreal for speaking out and making this issue their business.

ACWS BOARD

Joie Dery, President
Mike Dickinson, VP
Pat Vargas, Secretary
Bev Rachwalski, Treasurer
Brenda Brochu
Lorne Goddard
Tess Gordey
Marjorie Luger
Shelley Willier
Barb Young
Susan Zubach

ACWS OFFICE

Jan Reimer - Provincial Coordinator
Carol Adams – Office Administrator
Lesley Bokenfohr - Finances
Patti McClocklin – Communications
Kate Woodman – Research Specialist

Alex Taylor
School
9321 Jasper
Ave.
Edmonton AB
T5H 3T7

Toll Free 1-866-331-3933
Tel:780-456-7000
Fax: 780-456-7001
www.acws.ca
voice@acws.ca

Message from the President



The most important news to ACWS is that recently, in Ottawa, Jan Reimer received the coveted Governor General's Award, an award earned by very few. Jan shows great commitment and persistence to any task she undertakes. The initiative and drive Jan has shown as our provincial coordinator is only one example of her numerous lifetime achievements, all of which she can be very proud. To Jan, on behalf of all ACWS members,

please accept our most heart felt congratulations!

The provincial ACWS office remains in a state of high action! Since the last newsletter was published, we have welcomed two new staff to ACWS: Carol Adams and Patti McClocklin. Both have had to 'catch on' to what ACWS is all about, and are doing a tremendous job. Welcome!

At the Board strategic planning retreat we took a hard look at committees and their effectiveness. The result was to disband some committees and combine others. Committee work results in a tremendous workload for the provincial office and members, so we looked to lightening that load while maintaining the initiative of addressing issues as required through the use of task groups.

All shelter boards and shelter staff are to be commended for their ongoing dedication to addressing family violence.

Please refer to the website for the complete message.

Alberta Women's Shelters Statistics 2005/2006

Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

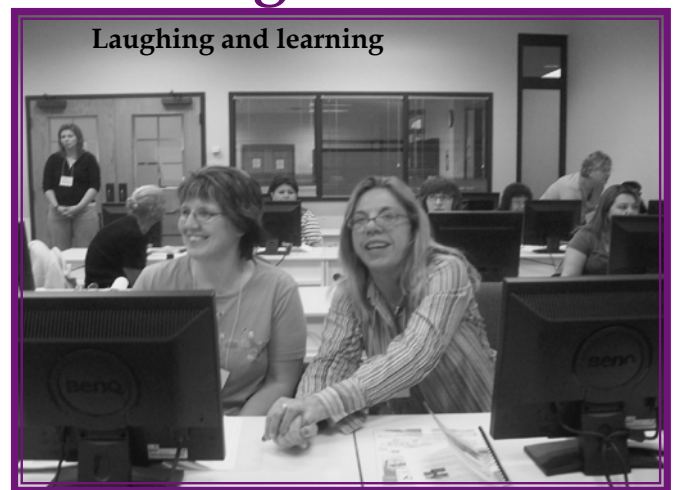
Fiscal Year Statistics: 1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006

41 member shelters: women's emergency, second stage and senior's shelters

- Nearly 13,000 women and children were resident in shelters
 - Over 20,000 women and children requested shelter and were unable to be accommodated
 - 13,000 of these women and children were turned away from shelters because they were full
 - Shelters experienced a 34% increase in numbers of crisis calls received
 - 34% of women admitted to women's emergency shelters reported requesting and receiving police assistance
 - At departure from women's shelters, 95% of women report they are now more able to keep themselves and their children safe
 - 76% of women resident in shelters are at high or serious risk of danger in their intimate partner relationship
 - In the 2004 - 2005 fiscal year, over 14,000 women and children were resident in shelter and nearly 9,000 women were turned away because the shelters were full
- Please note: today women and children are staying longer in shelter and as a result, fewer are able to be accommodated.

Second Annual HOMES Training : A Success

From September 29 - October 1, over 67 participants representing 28 shelters, gathered together in Edmonton for specialist training on the HOMES database. The sessions were hosted by ACWS, Canadian Outcomes Research Institute and Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying. This joint Partner's Committee, in collaboration with the ACWS Systems Information Subcommittee, worked hard to bring together all the components required to ensure an efficient and productive training activity. Once again, the event was held at the Academy of Learning and the facilities were excellent. This year we occupied 3 separate labs, with each one a focal point for a specific level of training. Penny (from "A Safe Place" in Sherwood Park) led nearly 30 delegates through Level 1, basic training. The Level 2 curriculum concerned creating Program Logic Models on HOMES and was provided by Lissa (from C.W. E. S.). Karen



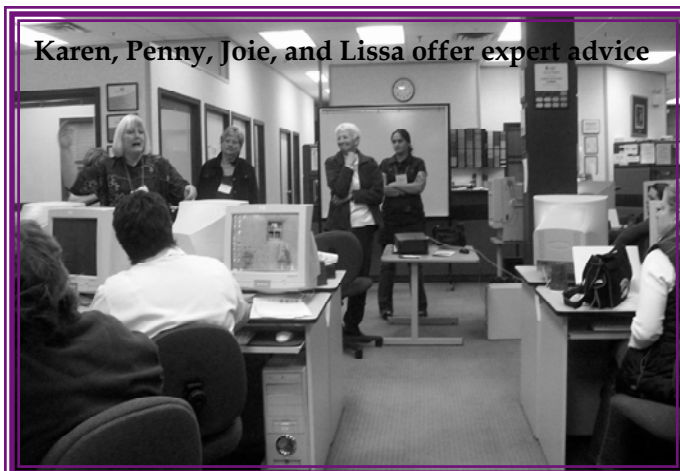
Mathews (from CORI) led a group of around 10 through advanced level training on outcomes and reporting

HOMES Training *Continued from Page 3*

The participants' feedback from the post-training survey was excellent. With very little exception it was concluded that the training was effective:

- 95% increased their knowledge of the data entry process
- 98% increased their knowledge of HOMES capacity
- 100% were happy with the trainers
- 100% recommend annual HOMES trainings

In terms of qualitative data, a consistent response indicated a desire for longer training; most proposed 2.5 days. Many delegates wanted more "hands-on" computer work and worksheets. Others noted their desire for the training to be held throughout the week, and not on weekends. Additionally, there were a few comments that it would be good for shelter executive directors to be present and have sessions designed for them on such things as putting annual reports on HOMES. Finally, there was a number of kudos to the trainers for all their hard work in making the training a success!



Karen, Penny, Joie, and Lissa offer expert advice

- *This is my first computer training and it was very interesting and new to me. I would like to come back and learn more about HOMES.*
- *Lissa rocks!*
- *I really enjoyed the levels component added to HOMES training. It has allowed for greater growth in knowledge for everyone at any skill level regarding HOMES.*



Jan Reimer, Provincial Coordinator for ACWS, receiving the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Person's Case at Rideau Hall on October 18, 2006. The Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean ended her speech with the following words:

There is nothing like the stubbornness of a woman. That's something else my mother taught me, something I'm trying to teach my own daughter. Particularly when it comes to ridding our lives of such unhealthy concepts as discrimination and misogyny. Ladies, your own brand of stubbornness is commendable and an example for the rest of us.

Excerpt from the Governor General's speech

Danger Assessment Training in November

Six experts in the field of danger and risk assessment will share their knowledge and provide training workshops at a seminar November 6 and 7 at The Best Western Conference Centre in Sherwood Park. Shelter workers, RCMP members and other interested guests will have an opportunity to learn from the best: Linda Baker Ph.D., P.Psych., Jacqueline Campbell Ph.D., RN, FAAN, Jane Coombe Policy and Program Analyst, Jeffrey L. Edleson Ph.D., Karl Hanson Ph.D., Jay Silverman Ph.D. as well as local RCMP Relationship Violence Program Manager, Sharon Meredith and Naomi Manuel whose son was murdered by his father during a court ordered visitation. Keeping women and children safe is the focus of this two day meeting generously supported by Strathcona County Community Coordinated Response to Relationship Violence and Alberta Children's Services Community Incentive Fund. We thank them for their support.

Community Safety It's our business — make it yours.

That's our theme for the Family Violence Prevention Month (FVPM) campaign this November.

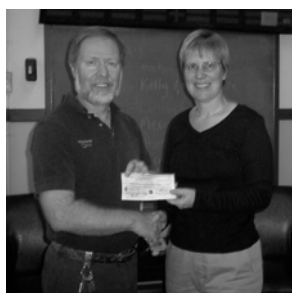
Although we are operating on a more limited budget for our media campaign this year, the bighearted commitment of several individuals and businesses has allowed us to launch a marketing campaign that will be successful in encouraging dialogue about the issue of family violence.

With generous support from Shaw Communications in producing public service announcements and kind assistance from Global and Chorus Radio in airing our information, our campaign will focus on shelters and the important work they do. Bus signage has been made possible by support from Pattison Signs and posters will promote supporting local shelters.

We are very fortunate to have a number of influential men from our community willing to help to educate the public about domestic violence.

The Honorable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Mayor Stephen Mandel, Edmonton Eskimos' CEO Hugh Campbell, Edmonton Oilers' player development coach and former NHL player, Kelly Buchberger, and ex NHL player, Calgary Flames' Lanny McDonald will act as honorary hosts and supporters of several events and our media campaigns during the month of November.

These men are speaking out against violence against women. They have made it their business.



Phil Meagher of the Alberta Locksmith's Association presents Kate Woodman of ACWS with a cheque for \$1,650 — the results of their trade show raffle in Red Deer.

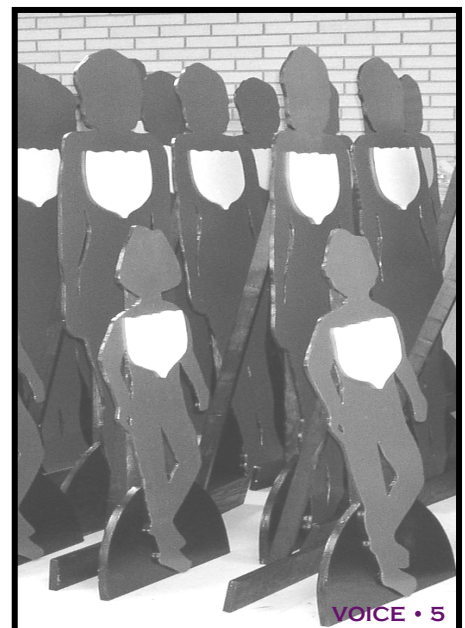
Betty Kozak Memorial Concert

Natalya Koziak's life changed forever when she received word that her mother, Betty Kozak, had been murdered by her former boyfriend on Tuesday, June 14th, 2005. Betty had reported Clarence to the police that weekend for uttering threats against her.

"It is impossible for me to put into words the sadness and anger that my brothers and I are feeling," says Natalya, "Alberta has one of the highest rates of domestic homicide in the country and knowing that my mom has become a statistic of such a senseless act just makes me sick." She adds, "I feel the only way I can deal with my pain is to try and make sure this never happens again. I can try to make a difference."

Natalya and a group of volunteers mounted the **First Annual Betty Kozak Memorial Concert to End Domestic Violence** on June 15, 2006. Over 200 people attended the successful event, raising just over \$3,000. Proceeds were donated to ACWS and the money was used to purchase protective carrying bags for the Silent Witness Display.

Thank you to Benjamin Moore-Grove Decorating and the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades, Local 177 for the repainting of the display.



Mexico

Albertans meet shelter workers from Central and South America

Brenda Morales Badillo looked at the Albertans with a question in her eyes.

“I am so surprised to hear that you have the same problem as we do with violence against women,” she said. “I did not know it would exist in a country like Canada.”

At 21, Brenda runs a small women’s shelter in Chicomexochitl, an indigenous community in a remote area of Mexico. She can accommodate only three women and their children, yet her single shelter serves 22 communities, the smallest of which has 300 people.

Her work is dangerous and difficult. She doesn’t have a car to reach the villages she serves, and abused women have no transportation to reach her. Abusive men can bribe local police to avoid criminal charges for wife-beating and murder. No law against domestic violence exists, and sexual assaults go unpunished. Shelter workers are often threatened by abusers, and harassed by police.

Jan Reimer and her colleagues at ACWS have searched for a way to share the experiences of Alberta’s shelter movement with women like Brenda.

In September, their dream became a reality when Red Nacional de Refugios, the national shelter organization in Mexico, invited Jan and four other Albertans to Mexico City speak at the first meeting of shelter workers from across Central and South America.

To tell the Alberta story, Jan brought along Janet Gladue, director of the “Bigstone Cree Nation Women’s Emergency Shelter” in Wabasca; Sergeant Sharon Meredith, Manager of the Relationship and Family Violence Program for the RCMP in Alberta; Pat Vargas, director of “A Safe Place”, the shelter in the County of Strathcona; and Linda Goyette, the editor of *Standing Together: Women Speak Out about Violence and Abuse*. The Albertans were the only Canadians at the gathering.

Jan told about 100 women in the audience about the ways that ACWS tries to be a strong voice for



shelters through support training and advocacy. She also described how Alberta’s shelters attempt to keep women safe, protect children and work for change to end family violence in every corner of the province.

Janet Gladue opened the Alberta presentation with a prayer in Cree. She talked about on-reserve shelters and services for First Nations and Métis women. She also described the disparity in funding between the provincial shelters in Alberta and the federally-funded shelters on reserve, which receives money for their important work.

Janet found an interesting way to demonstrate the impact of the residential schools on First Nations families and communities in Canada – with help from the audience members who acted in different roles as the children, women, men and elders. Most shelter workers at the gathering had indigenous or mixed ancestry, and many said they recognized similar patterns in their own countries.

Sharon Meredith described the innovative Memorandum of Understanding signed by ‘K’ Division of the RCMP, the Province of Alberta and ACWS. She distributed copies of the agreement, translated into Spanish, as a model for reform. Many shelter workers expressed surprise at the evidence of police co-operation. Like Brenda, they reported that police officers often refuse to lay charges against abusive men, and accept bribes.

Violence Against Seniors

Did You Know That Some People Believe:

- Abuse is a family matter that is private and should be dealt with behind closed doors
- Looking after an older person is really hard and as such the older person should do what they are told and that they are being too difficult
- He/She is old, they don't need their money. After all, I am going to get it when they die anyway, I might as well have it now
- What's happening is not abuse but just conflict between two people
- Intervention will just make matters worse
- Wife abuse stops when a woman gets older

Are the following statements True or False?

Abusers are usually mentally ill

Ethnic or aboriginal communities respect the older people and would never abuse or neglect them

Older adults grow more and more alike as they age

Older people are resistant to change

Older people are usually sick, frail and need care

Spousal abuse stops at age 60

(The answers to all of the above are false)

Facts About Abuse to Older Adults:

Abuse can take many different forms and can include: physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, financial abuse, over or under medication & neglect.

Approximately 7% of all seniors experience abuse.

Domestic violence cuts across all class, race and socioeconomic lines. People of all ages and abilities can be victims of domestic violence.

Domestic violence in later life occurs when a family member or someone with whom a victim has or had an intimate, ongoing relationship subjects an older person.

Elder abuse can be defined as any deliberate action

or lack of action that causes harm to an elderly person or a pattern of coercive control and abuse.

There is not one major cause of elder abuse, but rather, many different reasons including a history of an abuse between family members, alcohol and drug use, dependency – either by the elderly person becoming dependant on family members or when someone is dependant upon the elderly person for money or housing, greed, ageism, lack of knowledge about the degree of care and needs of elderly people, lack of respect given to elderly people in a society which values youth, energy, self-reliance and physical beauty.

Approximately 25% of the clients served in Seniors' Shelters are male.

Approximately 55% of all clients who accessed Seniors' Shelters were abused by a family member. Victims of elder abuse can be male or female from any income level, any cultural or ethnic group, and can be persons in good health or those incapacitated in some way.



Did you know that Alberta is the only province Canada that has shelters for seniors experiencing abuse?

In Edmonton: Seniors' Safe Housing, a program of SAGE (Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton), offers temporary, free accommodation in a furnished suite, to men and women over 60 needing safety from abuse. **Call (780)702-1520.**

In Calgary: Kerby Rotary House is an emergency/transitional shelter providing safe secure accommodation to adults forced to flee abuse in the family. Professionally staffed, the shelter offers a 24 hr crisis line at **(403) 705-3250.**

The Mexican shelter organization asked Jan and Sharon to meet with senior Mexican police officials to describe the way the Alberta agreement works in practice. This helpful meeting took place at the end of the week.

Speaking to the gathering in fluent Spanish, Pat Vargas talked about the working philosophy of shelter workers in Alberta, and their day-to-day efforts to encourage women and children to begin a new life. "Words can lift or break a soul," she said. "Ensure that you always lift."

Finally, Linda Goyette talked about the importance of collecting the stories of abused women so that their voices are heard and respected, and their experiences are understood. She suggested ways that shelter workers in other countries might adapt the Standing Together book project to give local women a stronger sense of their own power.

Central and South American countries confront a severe shortage of shelters. For example, Mexico, a nation of 106 million people, has about the same number of shelters as Alberta, with three million people. Shelter workers from many nations said abusive men have invaded their shelters with guns. One shelter was burnt to the ground.

At the same time, many progressive shelters offer services unknown in Canada, such as lawyers, doctors and child therapists on site. Others find creative ways to raise money. Staff members and women in one Honduran shelter opened their own factory, and now export candles around the world. The profits keep their shelter open.

Janet Gladue concluded the Alberta presentation leading a Cree round dance. Holding hands in a circle, shelter workers from more than a dozen countries, celebrated their new friendship – and their shared determination to end violence against women everywhere.



Conference Delegates

Brenda Morales Badillo's message to Alberta women who confront family violence: "I admire you. You are strong. It is difficult for you to face the violence in your life. Don't be quiet about it. Go to the police. Help yourself, and when you do, you will help other people. You will help all of us."

When Someone You Know Is Abused

advice from Susan Plesuk - Manager of Housing & Community Outreach YWCA Sheriff King Home, Calgary
excerpt from Canadian Living, November 2006

- Let her know you are concerned and ask if her partner has abused her. She may become defensive, deny the abuse or make excuses for her partner, but stand by her and let her know that you care and are there for her.
- Make sure she knows that it is against the law for a person to assault or threaten another person in an intimate relationship; this is particularly important for women who are new to Canada.
- Be a good listener.
- Do not judge her or make comments about her partner.
- Do not contact or confront her partner.
- Tell her that you are there for her regardless of whether she decides to stay in or leave the relationship. "Sometimes family may become so frustrated with the woman that they back off," says Plesuk. "Hang in and be ready when she wants your help."
- Help her identify her options, such as staying with a friend or family or reporting the abuse to the police.
- Let her know of local women's shelters that she can contact, anonymously if she chooses. They have crisis lines and can offer information and help, including developing a safety plan if the violence escalates or she decides to leave the relationship.
- If you think her life is in danger, call the police, otherwise allow her to regain control of her life and make the decisions for herself.
- If children are in the home, call a local child welfare agency or the police. "Children witnessing domestic abuse is a form of child abuse," says Plesuk, "and we all have an obligation to make sure that children are safe."