Manitoba First Nations Board for Family Violence Prevention



3rd Annual Circling Buffalo Orientation

March 11-13, 2014 - Fort Garry Hotel, 222 Broadway, Winnipeg

2014 Conference Report

Working Together to Prevent Family Violence

Executive Summary

The Circling Buffalo Manitoba First Nations Board for Family Violence Prevention (Circling Buffalo Inc) was formed as a response to the need for Manitoba First Nations to strengthen their ability to design, control and manage the AANDC Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) for Manitoba First Nations. The Board is responsible for overseeing the FVPP projects funded by AANDC Manitoba Region.

Circling Buffalo's mission is to empower our communities to build upon their strengths, communicate and network effectively, and provide prevention services through holistic, community-driven programming. Our vision is to gather in unity to awaken the spirit of the people and the will within honouring life.

The ***3rd Annual Orientation: Working Together to Prevent Family Violence*** is an annual event that contributes significantly to the fulfillment of Circling Buffalo's fulfillment mission and vision. The plan is to continue to host the event on an annual basis.

The gathering this year provided an excellent opportunity for communities, youth, Elders, service providers and other stakeholders to gather in unity to identify strengths, exchange knowledge and network, all working towards the common goal of Family Violence prevention in Manitoba First Nation communities. It was clear that participants felt this gathering was a source of revitalization.

Participants gained much valuable knowledge on family violence prevention throughout the three days. On day one, participants heard from representatives from shelters for women affected by family violence and about the legacies of residential schools and family violence. Other invited speakers presented on services and solutions, such as the role of technology and of natural healing. Day two included presentations by the First Nations Women's Council and the Winnipeg Police Service, followed by small group discussion and sharing circles. Other topics discussed included Ceremonies and Teachings, Mental Health and Family Violence and Services for Men. The final day concluded with presentations and discussions on How Family Violence Affects Children.

Manitoba First Nations Family Violence Prevention

In unity we can prevent & reduce family violence

On Behalf of the Circling Buffalo Board:

Tansi, Aaniin, Wotziye, Ho, Han, Boozhoo!

The Circling Buffalo Board would like to thank everyone for being a part of our ***3rd Annual Orientation.*** We were pleased to see a number of participants from all over Manitoba - from our youth to our Elders and from community members to various community support and service providers. Sharing information with one another and brainstorming solutions on the issue of Family Violence Prevention in our communities is an important step in empowering ourselves to heal from this issue.

As part of our event, we invited youth from various communities to jot down their thoughts, feelings and observations on the event. Some youth shared these journal entries with the Circling Buffalo Board members. We would like to share the inspiring words of what our youth learned from the conference:

- *There are a lot more shelters across Manitoba than I expected, until now I never realized how much families are affected by domestic violence.*

- *We watched a video about an unborn baby that has parents that are very abusive. I thought this was an interesting video because it's so real and the baby is talking, but still everything [is] outside. I think it would make a great message for everyone.*

- *Dr. Chantal Fiola was talking about how residential schools cause domestic violence and how the physical and sexual abuse could really contribute to domestic violence if it is not dealt with properly. They said if you hold on to the memories and that hurt, it may trigger something that could cause you to hurt someone else like a family member.*

- *After Dr. Fiola was done speaking an Elder came up to speak and her name was Rose Heart[…] The next Elder to speak was Mr. John Murdock. I remember his story well, he spoke about the sad encounters he had during residential school and the impact they had on his life overall before he found the Creator again…Before I heard these stories from these Elders I never made the connection that residential school also has something to do with the family violence we see in a lot of reserves.*

- *…after attending these conferences (Family Violence Prevention Orientation) and getting to sit through the workshops we've sat through I really want to be the change in my community it needs. I hope to be that change someday and I wouldn't be feeling this way if it weren't for this great opportunity.*

Again, on behalf of the Circling Buffalo Board, thank you to all the participants and presenters who shared their stories, knowledge and teachings over the three days. *We gather in unity to awaken the spirit of the people and the will within honouring life.*

3rd Annual Circling Buffalo Orientation

Opening - Elder's Prayer & Honour Song by Dakota Spirits Drum group



Shelters for Women Affected by Family Violence Presentation

Presentations were made on shelter services and supports available to women and families.

Presenters:

Carrie Chubb, Team Leader, First Nation Healing Centre. The First Nation Healing Centre project proposes to address healing needs by offering 10 seven-week residential 'Healing Our Spirits' program to 10 people per cycle over the course of two years. The program provides information about Residential School Impacts and offers Individual and Group Counselling; Group Sessions; Sharing Circles; Guest Speakers; Elder Counselling/ Involvement; Participant Presentations; Parenting Counselling and Traditional Ceremonies and/or Church Services on request. The project also proposes Monthly Newsletters, Community Feasts, International Family Day Activities and Events, White & Red Ribbon Campaigns and Community Information Workshops; all of which are intended to create awareness of the Legacy of Residential Schools within the community.

Anna Pazdzierski, Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters. The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters was incorporated in 1991 by women's shelters in Manitoba working together to provide support, reduce the isolation of shelter directors, and stop the competition between shelters for funding dollars. Membership includes nine provincially funded women's shelters as well as several affiliate members working in the area of family violence.

Residential School Legacies and Family Violence

A presentation was made describing the history, legislation and the overall intergenerational impacts of residential schools on generations of First Nations and Metis people. The efforts at reconciling this past and the paths were also described.

Two Elders shared their first-hand accounts of what it was like to be students and survivors of residential schools. Their stories included inspiring accounts of how the schools impacted every aspect of their lives, especially their relationships with their families and their children, and how they overcame the abuse, neglect and racial discrimination imposed on them as children.

Presenters:

Dr. Chantal Fiola. She is Anishinaabe-kwe Métis with familial roots in St. Laurent, MB and a sessional instructor with the Department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba.

Rose Heart, Elder, cancer and residential school survivor.

John Murdock, Elder, residential school survivor. He is from the Fisher River Cree Nation and a Board member of the Fisher River Healing Centre. He shares his life story so that it might give others hope.

Technology and Family Violence

A presentation was made on how technology impacts family violence. Online help and other types of technology have helped people escape from domestic and family violence, but abusers have also used technology to further entrap and stalk their victims. This talk centered on using technology to empower yourself and being aware of potential exploitation by abusers.

Presenter:

Mary Dawson, Executive Director, Winnipeg Children's Access Agency. WCAA is a non-profit, charitable organization with the mission to facilitate contact between children and their family members in a safe, neutral and child-focused environment.

Natural Healings

A presentation was made describing the spiritual gifts and knowledge inherent in Aboriginal cultures and how individuals and communities should not be afraid to draw on traditional knowledge to pursue a spiritual and healing path.

Presenter:

Emmy Mitchell, Ceremonial Conductor/Spiritual Educator, Native Connections. She is a Mohawk from Akwesasne. Native Connections offers spiritual and cultural teachings, workshops in the areas of grieving, birthing, ceremonial teachings, sweat lodges, vision quests, spiritual consultations, and workshops to emotional

Updates from the First Nations Women's Council Panel

The AMC First Nations Women's Council is mandated by the Chiefs in Assembly to pursue issues of women's rights of equality and citizenship. Research, updates and information gathering on issues such as Bill C-3 (Gender Equality as INAC's response to the McIvor case), federal proposed legislation on Matrimonial Real Property, and Family Violence Prevention are major issues of the AMC Women's Committee , which ensure positive changes are being advocated at the political level.

The AMC First Nations Women's Committee (FNWC), established through resolution Jun.95-07 affirmed "the need for First Nation's women involvement in the self-government process." The significant cases of missing and murdered Indigenous Women continues to be another issue of focus for the FNWC, as well as their recent efforts to assist families dealing with these tragedies.

Presenters:

Councillor Rhonda Abraham, Black River First Nation

Chief Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation

Chief Francine Meeches, Swan Lake First Nation (Chair)

Engaging with Aboriginal People

Two members of the Winnipeg Police Service presented on programs they are working to make available to women and men impacted by family violence. They stressed that assistance from Aboriginal people is crucial to developing programs to deal with family violence.

Presenters:

Edith Turner, Patrol Sergeant, Winnipeg Police Service

Linda Parsons, Constable, Winnipeg Police Service

Sharing Circle about Services for Individuals affected by Family Violence

(See diagram on next page)



Mental Health and Family Violence

Mel and Shirley Chartrand, Eyaa-Keen Healing Centre Inc. They are the Authors of Natural Healing: "Ninawendam Bimosetowin Nibimatiziwinan" "I'm Walking My Life in Peace". This handbook is intended to be a support guide for those beginning to heal, and to help people explore what is involved in a natural healing process.

Mel & Shirley have delivered mental health services since 1988 through their program 'Being You'. Their specialized individual and group sessions are Aboriginal Traditional-Based Indigenous Mental Health Treatment geared towards working with the effects of trauma. Recognized for their groundbreaking work, they co-founded Eyaa-Keen Healing Centre in 1999, a not-for-profit charitable Organization. In 2005, Eyaa-Keen received International Accreditation.

Mel & Shirley practice and live the Ojibway (Anishinabek) way of life with its guiding principles and values which they apply as a base for their work. They continue to work with and learn from Traditional Elders, so they can live and teach in Traditional ways.

Services for Men

Presentations were made on the various services available to men impacted by family violence.

Presenters:

Clayton Prette, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

John Garrick, Mino-Pimatziiwin Program, Men's Healthy Living Program, Aboriignal Health and Wellness Centre

Michele Nichol, Men are Part of the Solution Program

Stephen Sutherland, Men's Resource Centre

How Family Violence Affects Children

A presentation was made describing how family violence affects children, with the main focus being on babies. The presentation included a video on how a baby is exposed to family violence in the womb. The speaker described how children are taught family violence and go on to either be victims or abusers. Treatment options for healing from family violence were also presented, which include talking about it to someone you trust, whether it's a friend, family member or a counselor.

Presenter:

Tracey Miller, Manitoba Institute of Registered Social Workers

Key Messages:



- You won't be able to help someone unless you help yourself first.
- Think before you start a family, because children are gifts to us from the Creator.
- Indigenous ways and knowledge, along with western ways can both be sources of assistance, and whatever you choose, stay true to yourself.
- Traumatic events have a significant impact on children and babies, and it's important to seek assistance with overcoming any impacts for yourself or for your children.
- Residential schools have contributed greatly to the issue of family violence in First Nation communities, but we can overcome the effects.
- It's important to transform negative experiences and feelings into positive energy and there are ways to do this and people who can help you achieve this change.
- We are all put on earth for a specific purpose, and so let's support one another and provide the best life possible for our children.
- Giving something positive back to the community is important.
- Violence is a learned behaviour that can be unlearned.

Appendix A: Delegate Representative Areas

Organizations
Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada
Aboriginal Health an d Wellness Centre
Anishinaabe Child & Family Services
Aurora Family Therapy Centre
Aurora House
Bloodvein Nursing Station
Brandon Friendship Centre
Canadian Mental Health Association
Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services
Eastman Crisis Centre Inc
Elwick Village and Resource Centre Inc
Family Dynamics
Family Violence Prevention Program
Fisher River First Nation Health Council
Interlake Reserves Tribal Council
Jesse Duraudo Specialzied Foster Home
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc
Mamawehetowin Women's Crisis
Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters
Manitoba Justice
Metis Child & Family Services
Native Womens Transition Centre
Niji Makwa
Northlands Health
Nova House Inc
Osbourne House
Probation Services
Salvation Army Booth Centre
Sandy Bay Child & Family Services
Southern Chiefs' Organization
West Region Child & Family Services
Winnipeg Police Service
Wolseley Family Place
Winnipeg Region Health Authority Home Care

First Nations
Berrens River First Nation
Blake River First Nation
Bloodvein First Nation
Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
Canupawukpa Dakota First Nation
Chemawawin Cree Nation
Cross Lake Band
Dauphin River First Nation
Ebb N Flow First Nation
Fox Lake Cree Nation
Gambler First Nation
Garden Hill First Nation
Gods Lake First Nation
Grand Rapids First Nation
Hollow Water First Nation
Jackhead First Nation
Keeseekowinin First Nation
Lake Manitoba First Nation
Little Grand Rapids First Nation
Little Saskatchewan First Nation
Long Plain First Nation
Moose Lake First Nation
Norway House Cree Nation
Opaskwayak Cree Nation
Oxford House First Nation
Peguis First Nation
Pinaymootang First Nation
Pine Creek First Nation
Pukatawagun First Nation
Red Sucker Lake First Nation
Rolling River First Nation
Roseau River First Nation
Sapotaweyak Cree Nation
Sayisi Dene First Nation
Shamatawa First Nation
Sioux Valley First Nation
Skownan First Nation
St. Theresa Point First Nation
Swan Lake First Nation
Warlake First Nation
Waywayseecapo First Nation
Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation

Manitoba First Nations Family Violence Prevention Program - Circling Buffalo Board

In cooperation with the Family Violence Prevention Program, Manitoba Family Services

Tuesday, March 11

8:00 – 8:20 am	**Registration**	
8:20 – 9:10 am	**Opening Ceremony** **Welcoming Remarks**	
9:10 – 9:40 am	**Shelters for women affected by family violence in Manitoba** Federally-funded shelters — Carrie Chubb Provincially-funded shelters — Anna Pazdzierski	
9:40 – 12:30	**Residential school legacies and family violence** Dr. Chantal Fiola Elder Rose Heart Elder John Murdock	
12:30 – 1:30 pm	**Lunch** Sagkeeng's finest perform	
1:30 – 3:15 pm	**Technology and family violence** Mary Dawson	**Natural healings** Emmy Mitchell
3:15 – 3:30 pm	**Break**	
3:30 – 4:30 pm	**Technology and family violence** (continues)	**Natural healings** (continues)
4:30 – 5:00 pm	**Closing ceremony**	

Appendix B: Forum Agenda (continued)

Wednesday, March 12

8:30 – 9:00 am	**Updates from the First Nations Women's Council Panel** Rhonda Abraham Betsy Kennedy Francine Meeches		
9:00 – 9:30 am	**Engaging with Aboriginal people** Patrol Sergeant Edith Turner Constable Linda Parsons		
9:30 – 10:30 am	**Sharing circle about services for individuals affected by family violence** Participants will choose one of the following areas: • Supports for the spiritual aspect (ceremonies, teachings, etc.) • Supports for the mental aspect (education, capacity, building, etc.) • Supports for the physical aspect (safety planning, nutrition, etc.) • Supports for the emotional aspect (individual counseling, etc.)		
10:30 – 12:00	**Networking** Organizations will display materials about their services and participants will connect with their colleague. Each organization will ensure that one participant stays at the table to provide materials and information while the rest network with organizations at other tables.		
12:00 – 1:00 pm	**Lunch** Leonard Sumner performs		
1:00 – 1:30 pm	**Canadian prostitution legislation** Prof. Karen Busby		
1:30 – 3:15 pm	**Ceremonies & teachings** Emmy Mitchell	**Mental health & family violence** Mel & Shirley Chartrand	**Services for men** Clayton Prette John Garrick Michele Nichole Stephen Sutherland

Appendix B: Forum Agenda (continued)

3:15 – 3:30 pm	**Break**		
3:30 – 4:30 pm	**Ceremonies & teachings** (continues)	**Mental health & family violence** (continues)	**Services for men** (continues)
4:30 – 5:00 pm	**Closing ceremony**		

Thursday, March 13	
8:30 – 10:15 am	**How family violence affects children** Tracey Miller
10:15 – 10:30 am	**Break**
10:30 – 12:00	**How family violence affects children** (continues)
12:00 – 12:30	**Wrap up & closing ceremony**

This event is funded by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada

Circling Buffalo Board Members:

Patricia Dorion
Chief Betsy Kennedy
Sharon Mason
Chief Francine Meeches
Elder Henry Skywater
Timothy Wasicuna
Angela Bonner
Norman Stagg