Family Violence Prevention Program

We gather in unity to awaken the spirit and the will within honouring life.

CIRCLING BUFFALO INC.

AUGUST 29 – 31, 2023

Winnipeg, MB

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the introduction of the Manitoba First Nations Family Violence Program, it has always been the mission to support and advocate for all First Nations. We strive to promote awareness and healthy relationships, especially to victims and survivors of family/domestic violence.

Circling Buffalo Inc. hosts an annual Family Violence Prevention Program Forum that collectively gathers various community members from all 63 First Nations across the Province of Manitoba.

This year, to stay current with preventative measures and topics, we welcomed presentations that were relevant for capacity building and community engagement as guest presenters encouraged questions and open discussions.

Respectfully, Circling Buffalo Inc. invited non-profit organizations to present on preventative and holistic measures that would provide awareness and knowledge to everyone in attendance.

We conclude that Family Violence is an issue that affects all our communities; but together we can unite and live healthy to prevent and stop the violence!

By restoring our cultural identity, we must continue to remember our traditional way of life and revitalize our natural laws, culture, and beliefs.

*"*Our Ancestors planted the seeds; Family Violence was not one of them."

Miigwetch

Executive Director

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD

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

Due to the restrictions of the global pandemic, the Family Violence Prevention Program forum was deferred for 2 years to ensure safety and wellbeing of our First Nation people across Manitoba. The covid-19 pandemic placed us in a critical time where mental health support and resources are vital for everyone.

While we recognize that “Family Violence” is a sensitive issue to bring people together; we secured mental health supports on-site if anyone felt triggered by presentations and information being shared. Resiliency is inherent within our hearts and empowers us to heal and find inner peace and acceptance.

Our culture teaches us that laughter is medicine and so is music and entertainment, it was our Honour to include fiddle music, Ojibwe Elvis, and a youth hoop dancer to offset the seriousness of morning presentations every day.

Acknowledging our elders’ ability to lead and include the next generation; it was significant to have Indigenous youth attend and provide their perceptions as a basis to symbolize and break the intergenerational cycles of violence.

We collectively give thanks to the many organizations that contributed to the success of this forum. The Family Violence Prevention Program forum is an annual event, we humbly thank every one of you for attending and sharing your stories. In aims of reducing family violence, we look forward to encouraging more land based and culturally appropriate prevention projects in every community.

We gather in unity
to awaken the spirit
of the people and
the will within
honouring life.

Miigwetch Ekosani Mahsi Cho

Board of Directors

Family Violence Prevention Forum

Agenda Day 1

Location: Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre (Wellington Room)

Date: August 29, 2023.

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Welcome & Greetings – Master of Ceremonies, Xavier Gould

Opening Prayer – Knowledge Keeper, Carolyn Moar

Swampy Cree Tribal Council Acknowledgement – Chief Betsy Kennedy, Chairperson

Circling Buffalo Inc. Report – Executive Director, Theresa Bruyere

First Nation Shelters of Manitoba Report – Shelter Liaison, Sharon Mason

Indigenous Services Canada – Regional Program Manager, Tina Kabestra

National Family & Survivors Circle – Keynote Speaker, Hilda Anderson-Pyrz

Lunch Hour Entertainment – Métis Fiddle Artist, Glenn Hewgill

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs – Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Manitoba Association of Women Shelters (MAWS) – Associate Provincial Coordinator, Tsungai (Sue) Muvingi

Indigenous Services Canada, Associate Regional Director, Rod Graham

Family Violence Prevention Forum

Agenda Day 2

Location: Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre (Wellington Room)

Date: August 30, 2023.

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Welcome & Recap of Day 1 – Master of Ceremonies, Xavier Gould

Income Assistance Policy “A Safe Way Out” – Indigenous Services Canada, Social Development Operational Specialist, Rachelle Henderson

Internet Safety – RCMP Indigenous Policing Services, Corporal Debbie Beck

Identifying and Preventing Human Trafficking in Canada – The Joy Smith Foundation, Janet Campbell

Lunch Hour Entertainment – Gerry Barrett “Ojibwe Elvis”

Fisher River Healing Centre – Executive Director, Katina Cochrane

Rekindle My Spirit – Program Facilitator, Marilyn Hart Murdock

Child Sexual Abuse – Heartwood Centre, Kristen Robson & Dana Gottzmann

Family Violence Prevention Forum

Agenda Day 3

Location: Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre (Wellington Room)

Date: August 31, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Welcome & Recap of Day 2 – Master of Ceremonies, Xavier Gould

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak – Grand Chief Garrison Settee

Manitoba Harvest – Manager of Indigenous Initiatives, Brenda Cameron

Food Banks Canada – Northern Program Officer, Jason Stevens

Elder Abuse – Taylor McCaffrey LLP, Diana King & David Wiebe

Victims of Intimate Partner Violence – Community Legal Education Association, Lori Colquhoun

Lunch Hour Entertainment – Indigenous Youth Hoop Dancer, Rylee Sandberg

Identifying & Using Pronouns – Indigenous Youth, Alicia Rae Kubrakovich & Kailey Arthurson

Circling Buffalo Inc. Board of Directors, Chief Betsy Kennedy

Closing Remarks – Master of Ceremonies, Xavier Gould

Closing Prayer & Smudge – Knowledge Keeper, Carolyn Moar

FVPP Forum Evaluation Feedback Questions

Thank you for your participation in this years Family Violence Prevention Forum. Please take a moment to fill out this evaluation form as your feedback will assist Circling Buffalo Inc. on future planning. Your feedback is anonymous.

1. What was your primary goal attending this forum?
2. Were you satisfied with the topics presented at this forum?
3. Is there a specific topic you would recommend for next year?
4. Did this forum provide you with the valuable information needed?
5. Which part of the forum was most interesting to you?
6. Overall, how would you rate this forum?
7. Which community are you from?
8. Please share any additional comments, thoughts, suggestions for future forums.

If you would like to email any topic suggestions for FVPP Forum 2024,

please email us at info@circlingbuffaloinc.ca

FVPP Forum Evaluation Feedback Answers

All answers submitted were anonymous.

1. Assigned by supervisor; interested in topics; interested in anything to do with FVPP; we need this in our community; to get information to help our people; to learn more about the FVPP funding; to learn more about resources; new ideas to utilize in my community; to learn; seek information in different areas; to be an advocate for our community; find out about annual funding, templates and types of FVPP projects; learning how to recognize and prevent family violence; grateful for opportunity to learn; interested in new information; to get a better understanding of FVPP; education and resources for my community; to obtain knowledge of the FVPP programming; ideas for workshops in the community; gain knowledge; brought a lot of encouragement, not to be afraid to speak; and assigned by supervisor.

2. Majority answered, “Very Satisfied”; minority answered, “Somewhat Satisfied”.

3. More information for isolated communities, where can they go for help; CFS/aging out of care; CFS policies; service delivery mandates from ISC; incentives for NNADAP workers; intimate partner violence; elder abuse; young families; how to recognize and prevent family violence; promote conference more effectively; more cultural teachings; grief & loss; certificate for attending; survivors who continue to walk proud; have men programming; break out sessions; more prevention ideas; process on starting a women’s shelter or transitional housing in a community; operations and requirements for staffing a shelter.

4. All answers received were “yes”.

5. All of it; very interesting; most topics; women shelters and locations; food bank services; joy smith foundation; RCMP; Healing centres; Indigenous Speakers; Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs; lunch with entertainment; enjoyed all of it; very informative; human trafficking; Harvest Manitoba; Day 2 was the best; Keynote Speaker; internet and child exploitation; and intimate partner violence.

6. Majority answered, “Excellent”; minority answered, “Good”.

7. Barren Lands; Black River; Brokenhead; Bunibonibee; Canupawakpa; Fisher River; Gamblers; Gods Lake; Hollow Water; Kinonjeoshtegon; Little Saskatchewan; Marcel Colomb; Mathias Colomb; Nelson House; Northlands; Norway House; Opaskwayak; Pauingassi; Pinaymootang; Pine Creek; Poplar River;

Red Sucker Lake; Rolling River; Sagkeeng; Sandy Bay; Skownan; St. Theresa Point; Swan Lake; War Lake; Wasagamack; Wuskwi Sipihk and York Factory.

8. More information on Violence against men; more encouragements especially marriage counseling; how to fight your foundation to keep it strong; how to speak out and get more useful homes, more buildings, like an old folk's home; this was my 1st time to attend a forum; it is important to have this forum. I look forward to next year; it was knowledgeable; thank you for the invite, I really enjoyed this forum; I really enjoyed this; I felt really comfortable here; having 63 First Nations that I can call family; together we learned from each other; we asked questions and found solutions; I can't wait until next year, please keep me updated; my 1st time attending one of these gatherings; I came with a counselor, she is supportive to me and my family; we need these gatherings up north; I really liked it here; more youth aspect presentations; transitioning from CFS and aging out; three days is too long; workshop ideas on FVPP projects; prevention services - how health can avoid CFS getting involved; what are holistic services; neuropathy - definition of services covered by FNIHB; trauma informed therapy presentation; I would have liked more hand outs from the speakers; 50/50 draws; I really liked that Service Canada was here, they helped me resolve a concern I had; great to speak with someone in person; very informative - Keep up the good work; it was good but include breakfast for each day; more presentations on human trafficking and drugs; too many male band members use meth drugs to control young women; breakfast options; having more responsibility on staff; some did not show up or were not present when names were called to speak; MC was great and stayed on track; and we really enjoyed our time here and the information we received. Thank you!!!!!

- 51% of communities attended – 32 out of 63.
- 71% of women shelter directors attended – 5 out of 7.
- 30 various speakers & presentations
- Artisan vendors and government booths on-site
- AMC Grand Chief Merrick & MKO Grand Chief Settee

Testimonial from Dakota Ojibwe Tribal Council Social Development Advisor

"I recently had the privilege of attending the Family Violence Prevention Forum – hosted by Circling Buffalo Inc., and I must say it was an incredibly enlightening and impactful experience. The forum brought together a diverse group of individuals, including experts, community leaders, and survivors, all dedicated to addressing and preventing family violence.

The FVPP forum provided a safe and inclusive space for open dialogue, where participants were encouraged to share their experiences, insights, and ideas. It was truly inspiring to witness the collective commitment and passion of everyone involved in creating a safer and healthier community for families.

The sessions and workshops conducted during the forum were thought-provoking and informative. They covered a wide range of topics, including recognizing the signs of family violence, understanding its impact on individuals and communities, and exploring effective prevention strategies. The speakers and facilitators were knowledgeable, compassionate, and engaging, ensuring that every participant felt heard and valued.

One aspect that stood out to me was the emphasis on prevention and early intervention. The forum not only focused on raising awareness about family violence but also provided practical tools and resources to help individuals and families break the cycle of violence. It was heartening to see the dedication to fostering healthy relationships and promoting positive change within the communities.

Moreover, the networking opportunities offered at the FVPP forum were invaluable. I had the chance to connect with like-minded individuals, organizations, and support services that are actively working towards preventing family violence. The sense of unity and collaboration was palpable, leaving me with a renewed sense of hope and determination to contribute to this important cause.

I highly recommend attending a Family Violence Prevention Forum to anyone who wants to make a difference in their community. It is an empowering and educational experience that equips individuals with the knowledge, resources and support needed to create a safer and more nurturing environment for families. Together, we can break the cycle of violence and build a future where every family can thrive".

Wopida, Mary Pashe











Pictures


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In unity we can prevent and reduce family violence!











Let's break the cycle!

Thank you all!

Indigenous Services Canada

Services aux Autochtones Canada

Community Legal Education Association

TAYLOR McCAFFREY LLP

MANITOBA HARM REDUCTION NETWORK

FIRST NATION HEALING CENTRE

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

JOY SMITH FOUNDATION

HEARTWOOD HEALING CENTRE

Rejean Brandt photography

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HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE
WINNIPEG, MB

