

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

**VIOLENCE PREVENTION
NEWSLETTER**

SUMMER 2007



This newsletter provides a forum for resource and information sharing, primarily between regional networks of the Provincial Partnerships in Action committee and other stakeholders invested in women's issues in New Brunswick. You, the readers, are also contributors as you have the opportunity to share new programs, community events and other information relating to women's issues and service provider wellness. Please take this opportunity to share this newsletter by forwarding it to others in your own networks!

Message from the Minister

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to this issue of *Community Connection: Violence Prevention Newsletter*.

We have developed this newsletter as a communication link to assist the network of provincial partners in sharing resources, ideas and information. This issue includes information on many different subjects and intriguing tidbits. For instance, you'll learn more about the Wage Gap Reduction Initiative, the opening of the Domestic Violence Court, work at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers' responsible for the Status of Women table, and the Women's Issues Branch itself and how it fits into the machinery of government. We are also providing suggestions on making the most of your summer and we highlight a few of our favourite New Brunswick places.

We're looking for your contributions too! What's happening in your corner of New Brunswick? Send us a quote we can include - funny or uplifting - we'd love to use it! What's new with your network, committee, or workplace? Tell us about it.

This is a wonderful opportunity for me to tell you that I know the work you do each day is invaluable. I commend each and every one of you for your contribution and dedication to the women of this province.

Sincerely,

Carmel Robichaud
Minister
Family and Community Services

Inside this issue....

Upcoming Events	2
News from the Women's Issues Branch.....	2
Marg's Corner	3
What's New?	4
Let's Network	4
Among our Favourite Spaces.....	4
Wellness	5
Did You Know?	6
In the Loop	7

Quote:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

Upcoming Events

Save these dates!

- The next **Provincial Partnerships in Action** meeting will take place October 2-4, 2007 in Tracadie-Sheila at the Deux Rivières Complex. More details to follow. You can contact Anne Cyr for more information at Anne.Cyr@gnb.ca or (506) 453-8126.
- On Thursday, August 2, 2007, a benefit supper entitled **Pour Vous MesDames**, at a cost of \$50 a ticket, will be held in connection with the Foire Brayonne, in Edmundston. The event, which was a success in 2006, is in its second year and brings together about 400 women. For more information: (506) 739-6265.
- The **Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation 2007 Gala Dinner** Tuesday, October 23, 2007. Reception at 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Dinner served at 7:30 p.m. Delta Beauséjour, Moncton, NB. Contact MMFF: (506) 472-5085, 1-888-673-6633, www.mmff.ca
- **Sexual Assault Training Forum:** November 13th & 14th at the Lord Beaverbrook Crowne Plaza, in Fredericton, NB. As part of the provincial strategy on sexual assault, we will be hosting a training forum in Fredericton for those interested in enhancing sexual assault services in their community. This will be an exciting opportunity to learn more about sexual assault in New Brunswick, as well as to network and collaborate with other communities!

Space is limited, so register early! To register for the forum, please contact Jennifer Richard at (506) 452-6986 or by email at j.richard@nb.aibn.com.

News from the Women's Issues Branch

Meet the Branch!

In each newsletter we will be using this space to introduce members of the Women's Issues Branch as a way for you to meet our wonderful team and to understand the scope of our work and responsibilities. This section will also provide contact names for different inquiries you may have in the future.



It is with great pleasure that we kick off this section of the *Community Connection* by introducing the Branch's Office Manager, Anne Cyr. Her name will be familiar to many of you as she has been your contact person when registering for recent training and PPA meetings.

Anne has been employed with the Province for over 28 years and brings a wealth of skills and knowledge to her role as Office Manager for the Women's Issues Branch. In addition to her other functions, Anne is responsible for coordinating the meetings and training sessions related to the PPA committee.

What you may not know about Anne is that she is an outdoor enthusiast and loves salmon fishing.

Wage Gap Action Plan scholarships now available

The scholarship program was introduced in 2006 as part of the government's Wage Gap Action Plan. It is intended to encourage people entering their first year at community college to seek careers in trades, technology and others sectors where participation to date by men

and women has been limited. A total of 57 scholarships were awarded for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 academic years.

Each scholarship has a maximum value of \$2,600, equal in value to one-year full tuition at New Brunswick Community College, up to program total of \$150,000 per year. Scholarships are awarded regardless of any other financial assistance applicants may have received.

To apply, students must complete an application form and provide a brief essay indicating their career interests. Applications and additional information about the scholarships are available online at the NBCC website: <http://www.nbcc.ca/calinfo.asp?year=2007&id=72&mid>.

Marg's Corner

Marg Malone Currie is a senior policy advisor with the Women's Issues Branch.

Welcome to my corner! What an honor and pleasure it is to be asked to contribute to this newsletter. As you know, women's policy/ issues/rights (whatever term you prefer) stretches in all directions. In this corner, I'd like to provide information on issues you may not have had to deal with but may be of interest to you, your families, or your organization.

In this issue I want to tell you about some research that caught the attention of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women two years ago, *Looking Beyond the Surface: An In-Depth Review of Parental Benefits*. The researchers, the Women's Network PEI, found that the eligibility criteria changes in 1997 and 2000, made it very difficult for those working part-time, seasonal, or contract to qualify for benefits given that it required 600 hours of work. Most women who did not qualify for benefits worked part-time or part-year. To address this the Network **recommends that "the federal government extend eligibility for maternity and parental benefits by changing qualifying requirements to allow for parents to reach back over the three-to-five-year period prior to the birth of a child."**

Another area addressed by the Network is that of self-employed workers. They state that "women-owned businesses are the fastest-growing part of the business sector in Canada, with women creating



twice as many new businesses as men". The Network **recommends that the eligibility criteria allow self-employed individuals the option to pay into the Employment Insurance Program.**

... information on issues you may not have had to deal with but may be of interest to you, your families, or your organization.

The Network noted that EI replaces earnings at 55% of insurable earnings. The maximum insurable earnings is approximately \$40,000 which translates to a replacement benefit of \$22,000. However, if a woman earns less than the maximum insurable earnings, her replacement benefit is much less. The network also found that although the length

of benefits has increased, the dollar value has decreased by 20% over the past 40 years – from a high of 67% in 1971. Therefore, the Network **recommends that the wage replacement for maternity and parental benefits be increased from 55% to AT LEAST 65%, based on the best 12 weeks of earnings in the last five years.**

There are many more interesting and concerning facts in this report and more recommendations. I encourage you to read the report and join with the Network and Status of Women Ministers to work toward changes to maternity and parental benefits.

You can find the report by clicking on Parental Benefits at: <http://www.wnpei.org/>. And by the way, in your opinion, are changes to EI the best way to fix this situation? Or, should there be a separate Family Insurance Program that workers and employers contribute to? I'd like your view! Contact me at marg.malonecurrie@gnb.ca.

What's New?

New Specialized Court Opens

Quietly and without fanfare, a new specialized court dealing specifically with domestic violence cases opened its doors in Moncton on April 12. The court will hear criminal cases from the judicial district of Moncton at the provincial court level. Judge Anne Dugas-Horsman, the presiding judge, will hear cases on Monday and Thursday afternoons.

A formal opening of the Moncton Domestic Violence Court took place on May 18 in Fredericton.

Let's Network

Looking for a helpful resource for aboriginal people in your community? Check out this user friendly and highly informative website <http://thehealingjourney.ca>. It was created with the input of Mi'kmaq and Maliseet partners along with the Gignoo Transition House and Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick. This site has loads of resources and information on family violence prevention.

New & Updated Legal Information Publications

A new publication on spanking and disciplining of children has been released by the Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick (PLEIS-NB). The pamphlet, [Spanking & Disciplining Children: What You Should Know About Section 43 of the Criminal Code](#), is written in plain language for parents and others with children in their care.

PLEIS-NB has also recently released a new booklet on donating to charities and non-profit organizations, entitled *Charitable Giving: Be a Wise Donor*.

This summer, PLEIS-NB will also be releasing updated versions of two publications: *Child Abuse: Recognize it, Report it, Prevent it*, and *No Means No: Understanding Consent to Sexual Activity*.

A non-profit organization that seeks to educate and inform the public about the law, PLEIS-NB receives funding and in-kind support from Justice Canada, the New Brunswick Law Foundation, and the New Brunswick Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of these publications can contact PLEIS-NB at pleisnb@web.ca; 506-453-5369, or check out our website at www.legal-info-legale.nb.ca.

Among our Favourite Spaces

Whatever your mood there is something for everyone in New Brunswick!

If biking is the name of the game then head for the great beaches and amazing biking trails that Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada offers. Its camping, nature and historical interpreters and programs are also an added bonus. This park is also located close to many other attractions. For more information visit: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/kouchibouguac>.

If you're into hiking and rugged beauty might we suggest Fundy National Park? In this park you'll find a secret oasis on the Moosehorn Trail... you can follow it to Laverty Falls, and all along the way there are swimming holes just calling your name! At the end of the day head down to the seaside town of Alma and enjoy fresh lobster off the dock! For more information you can visit: http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/nb/fundy/index_E.asp.



Wellness

Well, summer has rolled itself around the corner. It's time to reflect on what this could mean for our wellness.

Spring seems to be a time of renewal with its baby birds, melting sidewalks, warm air and thawing doggy dos. But spring is a bit too short to fully recharge, and that is why we have summer. Summer is a time when full rejuvenation can happen.

Summer's pace is slower, there is usually some time off for vacation and oh the glorious heat! It all adds up to a relaxing, enjoyable time of year, and one that is very easy to incorporate wellness into. In fact, summer is a great time to create a balanced lifestyle for yourself.

There are many ways to rebalance your life after the long deep freeze we call winter. Here are just a few:

- Your surroundings are getting greener and so why not your mode of transportation? You can use the time you commute to and from work to get in some activity and daily errands can also be accomplished this way too!
- And what will you do with all that spare time you have now that you don't have to shovel your driveway anymore? Any moment you have this summer take advantage of that great weather and get outside! Walking or running (especially during bug season) playing with your kids outside, biking, even things like mowing the lawn or working in the garden can be a great boost of energy in your day.
- Gardens: what a great way to reflect, get active and create a balanced lifestyle...it's a great source of organic food and a break on your budget! You can even have potted ones on your balcony.



Enough about activity and vegetables though, because when you get down to it, summer is about peace of mind and happiness.

Another opportunity the slower summer months can bring is self-realization. It can be an opportune time to set new goals for yourself or to improve a skill you already have. Take the summer to set motivating yet attainable goals...The great thing about summer is that it 'ends' in August, so you have a time frame for your goals if you want one. Try something new...jive lessons...or become better acquainted with something old.... painting....No matter what goals you set or your interests, now is the time to try something new, get better at something, or go after something!

Whatever you decide on, take the lazy days of summer to refocus, re-energize and reconnect. And be just that, a little lazy!

Enjoy your summer everyone!!

Tidbit: The lifespan of a taste bud is ten days.
http://www.berro.com/entertainment/humans_interesting_facts.htm

Virtual Destinations

1. *Children: The Silenced Citizens*. EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN
[Children's Rights Report – Draft Framework](#)
2. Funding Announcement. Status of Women Canada
http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/newsroom/news2007/0314_e.html
3. N.B. Career Surf: features information, tools, and opportunities for funding and scholarships, as well as links to many other employment- and education-related websites. It also features inspirational stories of New Brunswick women and men who have pursued careers that each gender hasn't traditionally undertaken in the province.
<http://www.gnb.ca/0012/Womens-Issues/wg-es/careersurf/index-e.asp>

Did you know?

Red Hot

Women's Issues Branch and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women – WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

If you've ever confused the Advisory Council on the Status of Women with the Women's Issues Branch, you are not alone. Many people have made that same mistake. This article will try to explain the difference between the two in less than 250 words.

First, who is the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women? The Advisory Council evolved from the Royal Commission on the Status of Women and operates arms-length from government. Its body is made up of 13 members who are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor from 12 regions of the province and a small staff. The Council reports to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, currently, the Honourable Carmel Robichaud. The Advisory Council was created by the provincial government as an agency for consultation and study on matters relating to the status of New Brunswick women. As part of its mandate, the council advises government and brings before it and the public issues of interest and concern to women.

On the other hand, the Women's Issues Branch is a branch of government operating within the Executive Council Office and is staffed with civil servants. The objectives of the Women's Issues Branch are to promote gender equality and reduce systemic discrimination, to provide advice and support on women's issues to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women as well as to departments of government, to coordinate the implementation of the government's action plan on violence against women; to liaise with community groups working in the area of violence against women; to coordinate the implementation of the government's wage gap action plan; and to liaise with the employer community on issues surrounding the wage gap and pay equity.

Oops, I've exceeded my word count!

Intimate Partner Violence Police Training

The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research in partnership with the Fredericton Police Force have developed a training program for police officers who intervene in situations of intimate partner violence.

In 2006 a two-day Train-the-Trainer training program entitled *Understanding the Impact of Intimate Partner Violence: Helping Police Officers to Better Intervene* was developed with the guidance of an Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the greater Fredericton community agencies. The training is intended to support those who are in a position to train police officers about the dynamics of and effective response to intimate partner violence. Once police officers have taken the training, they will have the tools to train others in their workplace.

In November 2006, four police officers from the Fredericton Police Force successfully completed the Train-the-Trainer training program. In December 2006, members of the Fredericton Police Force took part in a two-day pilot training session offered by the four police officers trained initially. During this two-day pilot, Fredericton police officers learned more about intimate partner violence, their role when intervening, and the impact of intimate partner violence on police officers.

The launch of this new Train-the-Trainer training program, hosted by the partnering agencies, was held on June 14, 2007 at the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research. At this event four officers who successfully completed the training received their certificates of achievement.

For more information on the Train-the-Trainer training program, contact the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre, at 453-3595 (fvrc@unb.ca).

In the Loop

- Provincial Partnerships in Action: Our spring meeting took place March 14-16 in Saint John and the theme was "Building Your Programs." Topics ranged from creating an awareness day in your community to social marketing, outreach programs and more. Minutes and workshop resources are available on the Violence Prevention Website at <http://www.gnb.ca/0012/violence/index-e.asp> under Provincial Partnerships in Action.
- The Charlotte County Family Violence Committee recently completed phase 1 of "Angela's Story: a Diary of Abuse", funded by the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation. This true survivor's story is a poignant account of the effects of living with abuse on a woman and her children. The group is now working on a play to accompany the diary and plans to have the official launch of the project in the fall of 2007. Copies of the diary will be available for sale at that time.

Coming Soon: A Provincial Scan on Sexual Assault in NB Communities!

The Provincial Strategy on Sexual Assault Services recently distributed Community Assessment kits to regional networks across New Brunswick in order to collect information on sexual assault in the province. The information collected in this scan will enhance a community's capacity to offer sexual assault services and programs, as well as become part of the larger picture of sexual assault services in New Brunswick. We will be working very hard over the summer months to collect the information found in the Community Assessments.

If you have any comments or events or articles you'd like to submit to the newsletter please feel free to contact the Women's Issues Branch:

Tel: (506) 453-8126
Fax: (506) 453-9799
Sartain MacDonald Building
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
Canada E3B 5H1
Email: Laura.Hamilton2@gnb.ca
We look forward to hearing from you!



La Fondation Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation

Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation Award presented to Madeleine Delaney-LeBlanc, social justice activist and founding chair of New Brunswick's Advisory Council on the Status of Women (ACSW).

May 25, 2007 (Fredericton, N.B.) the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation presented Madeleine Delaney-LeBlanc with its Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation Award. The Award, presented annually, is named in honour of the Foundation's patron, Muriel McQueen Fergusson.

Delaney-LeBlanc was selected as recipient for her life's work on behalf of women, children and vulnerable populations and as the champion behind the province's first Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

The Award was created in 1992 to recognize outstanding contributions toward eliminating family violence. In the name of the recipient, the Foundation will make a donation to a registered charity of the recipient's choice, whose objectives further the goals of the Foundation.

The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Award is presented to individuals, organizations or corporations whose achievements have advanced the elimination of family violence.