

RESOLVE Annual Report¹ 2009-2010

RESOLVE's projects have local, regional, national and international reach. These projects are facilitated by three prairie offices (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta), and coordinated by the RESOLVE Network office in Winnipeg. A primary component of RESOLVE's work is community partnership. We have continued to build and strengthen partnerships across a wide range of agencies and organizations in all three provinces, from the YWCA to women's shelters to First Nations to Justice departments.

Projects have been completed on issues as diverse as: best practices for housing women who become homeless upon leaving a violent relationship; the effects of violent trauma on the brain; and the experience of mothering in the context of domestic violence. These projects all have immediate implications for improving support to victims of violence. Interviews for a large longitudinal study of women who have been abused by intimate partners, *The Healing Journey*, were completed this summer, with many years of data analysis to follow. These findings will inform programs and policies aimed at fostering resilience among women who have experienced the crisis of violence at the hands of their partners and spouses. Dr. Mary Hampton in Regina has applied for another large CURA grant to explore the availability of services in rural and northern communities, using GPS technology to map and compare service demand and service availability in remote communities.

The complex network of RESOLVE's ongoing research projects is sustained and promoted through three **Provincial** Steering Committees that meet regularly to bring together academics, service providers and policy makers to discuss local research needs. A critical source of support for the work of RESOLVE is the Prairie Action Foundation's CARE Grant Program, which supports collaborative community-based research. These grants have provided approximately \$70,000 annually for research conducted in the Prairie Provinces. Currently, a CARE grant is contributing to the evaluation of the services provided by Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin, an Aboriginal shelter in Winnipeg that provides safety and outreach to women and children. Another CARE grant is supporting a study in Alberta of the service needs of people with disabilities who have been abused. Another is supporting a study of client satisfaction with the Winnipeg Children's Access Agency, which provides a safe environment for children to meet with non-custodial parents who have committed violence in the family.

RESOLVE's Research Day was held on November 17, 2010 in Calgary. At this annual conference, research projects conducted through each of the three centres were presented to an audience of practitioners, policy-makers, students and academics.

Drs. Jane Ursel and Leslie Tutty continued their ongoing studies of the specialized Family/Domestic Violence Courts in Winnipeg and Calgary. These courts were established to provide supportive environments for victims of family violence to provide testimony. They are models for similar courts in other parts of the world. RESOLVE has been tracking all cases processed through these courts and collecting a broad range of information about them.

Examples of RESOLVE's Impact

National Impact

¹ Report prepared by RESOLVE.

RESOLVE is a member of the Canadian Observatory on the Justice System Response to Intimate Partner Violence. This is an international, interdisciplinary network of researchers, policy-makers and practitioners who are examining how the justice system functions across Canada and abroad. They monitor the justice system's processing of family violence cases to determine the impact of policy changes, and to make comparisons across jurisdictions. This information allows the network to inform and advise justice system officials about the effectiveness of strategies, facilitating a more effective response to family violence.

Provincial Impact

The Manitoba government introduced a Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (DVDRC) in response to Dr. Jane Ursel's recommendation that the province establish such a committee. This recommendation resulted from Dr. Ursel's research on the Domestic Violence Court.

Individuals at risk in Alberta continue to benefit from the amendments to the Domestic Violence Emergency Protection Act introduced after Dr. Leslie Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta) reviewed the legislation and issued recommendations.

The Manitoba Seniors and Healthy Living Secretariat recently announced that the Senior Abuse Line will now provide counselling and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – a change that was recommended in a report submitted by RESOLVE to the Seniors Secretariat in the summer of 2010.

Since 2007, RESOLVE has been involved in the development of a guide for trauma services, completion of an environmental scan of existing trauma centres, implementation of training in trauma recovery through Klinik Community Health Centre, and the production of an interactive electronic document describing the effects of trauma on the brain. Meetings have recently been held with government officials to discuss the development of a trauma recovery centre.

Local Impact

RESOLVE was asked to conduct an evaluation of the services provided by the Laurel Centre, an agency that provides support to survivors of childhood sexual abuse. On the basis of the findings, the Laurel Centre received CARE grant funding to revise their program assessments. With the help of RESOLVE they have introduced pre- and post program evaluations and a system for tracking client progress. These changes are now being expanded to the Men's Resource Centre, which the Laurel Centre now supervises.