Workshop Descriptions

**A1. Effective Trauma Informed Services for Immigrant, Refugee and Women with Precarious Immigration Status who Experience Gendered Violence**

Presenter: Rosa Elena Arteaga, *Battered Women’s Support Services*

The purpose of this workshop is to address the urgent need for an effective response to violence against immigrant, refugee and women with precarious immigration status. Through an interactive presentation, Rosa Elena will provide analysis, practice models, and tools in a way that can be easily adapted by participants to their specific needs in their work. We will review women-centred solutions, strong anti-oppression practice, and feminist values that forge a bond among community workers, enhancing their capacity to build trust and safety. Rosa will present an overview of diverse communities, and examine effective trauma informed practices when working with these populations.

**A2. Supporting Deaf Children/Children of Deaf Adults in Transition: What is Culturally Sensitive**

Presenters: Sarah “Charlie” Coyle, *Vancouver Coastal Health* and Melissa Mykle, *PDHHS*

The workshop will focus on how to create accessibility and build cultural capacity to work with families that have Deaf members. Many Deaf adults experience cultural and access barriers to services like transition house programs because of the inability to text, or use third party interpreter services, which limit a house’s ability to release confidential information like the location. If families arrive and children have a hearing loss, access to language may be reduced, and parents may lack the fluency to support their children in understanding the reason for transition. Solutions to these and other barriers will be brainstormed and resources available across the province will be discussed.


Presenters: Rochelle Stevenson and Amy Fitzgerald, *University of Windsor*

Pets are a part of over 60% of Canadian homes. What happens to the animal family members when women and children leave their abuser? What is the impact on the women and children of the separation from their beloved pets? This workshop will explore these questions and others as they relate to the benefits and challenges that serving women, children and pets present for anti-violence workers. Activities will incorporate real-world scenarios to demonstrate how violence against women, children and pets can intersect; the activities will facilitate creative problem-solving among participants.
Research-based evidence, including new data collected from across Canada, will be presented to provide a backdrop to better understand the scope of the issue and better serve women and children. Policy and practice implications will be discussed with workshop attendees.


Presenter: Cathy Richardson/Kinewesquao, *School of Social Work at the University of Montreal and a co-founder for the Centre for Response-Based Practice*

This workshop will provide a practical understanding of how anti-violence workers can recognize and honour children’s resistance. How can workers speak with children and mothers in a way that promotes dignity and repair to the relationships that may have been harmed by violence? Cathy will discuss how workers can support mothers in ways that help children process difficult emotions and regain a sense of connection after disruptive events. She will provide examples of how safety, dignity and just social responses are key to recovery and empowerment after violence.

**A5. Does Your Agency’s Use of Technology Affect the Safety and Privacy of Women and Children?**

Presenters: Amy FitzGerald and Rhiannon Wong, *BC Society of Transition Houses*

The use of technology is rapidly changing. Anti-violence programs are challenged with incorporating technology into their operational and administrative practices and using technology to communicate with women and young people whom they support. How can we, as trusted community service providers, balance using new technologies that have the possibility to streamline and improve our services with privacy, safety, and the empowerment of women and children while managing possible risks?

In this workshop we will facilitate discussions on best practices and policies for agencies’ use of technology and share current information based on resources from the National Network to End Domestic Violence’s Safety Net Project. Topics will include: agencies’ use of operational and administrative technologies, mobile devices, social media platforms, communicating via technology and how the use of technology can have implications for agencies’ record management responsibilities.
A6. Feminist-informed Supervision: Keeping ethics and justice-doing at the heart of our work

Presenter: Vikki Reynolds

Vikki will offer supervision ideas that hold us together in solidarity, shouldering each other up, and inviting us to our best ethical ways of being with the women we serve and with each other. This means creating intentional relationships of dignity and respect between us, and creating cultures where critique is welcomed and values, and we structure enough safety for these hard conversations and work. We will discuss how to keep the women we serve at the heart of our work, which continuing to resist the structures of oppression that promote rape culture.

B1. Returning to the Roots: CWWA and Psychoeducational Support

Presenter: Tracy Myers, Haven Society

The CWWA program is firmly planted in the grassroots, feminist framework and knowing of the Transition House workers of this province. It was these women, not Clinical Psychologists, who recognized the need for children and youth to receive support for the violence they had experienced. However, this knowing is currently being marginalized by the professionalization of the sector and many CWWA programs are feeling the pressure to offer services outside of the mandate. This hands-on, experiential workshop will explore practical, psychoeducational methods and approaches to assist CWWA counsellors in their role. We will discuss how psychoeducation is not "therapy lite" and why a psychoeducational approach is both an honouring of children and youth as well as a political response in this era of the DSM diagnosis and medication of our young people.

B2. Friendship Ends Violence Against Women (EVAW)

Presenter: Anna Zanella, Friendship House Association of Prince Rupert

This workshop will describe how Anna Zanella’s herstory inspired the Women’s Taxi Service in Northern BC. Born and raised in Prince Rupert, Anna will share her trek to become a national advocate for women and children, a champion of women in business and social enterprise, an early childhood educator and an investment banker, all while raising her family. Hoping to assist women and children’s safety in the North, Anna researched, networked and advocated for a Women’s Taxi Service in her community. Anna designed the Women’s Taxi Service to provide safe affordable rides to women and children to travel safely in their communities and to access services. Prince Rupert is a community based at the northern most region of the Highway of Tears Corridor (Highway 16). Three sister Friendship Centres along the Highway of Tears collaborated with the critically needed Women’s Taxi Service. Anna is on the Executive Committee for the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) and serves on the board of...
the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC). Anna and her Friendship Ends Violence Against Women colleagues can't wait for folks to get on board.

**B3. Information & Privacy in Women’s Anti-Violence Work: A Herstory of Resistance & Rights**

**Presenters:** Amber Prince and Janice Abbot, *Atira Women’s Resource Society*; and Mary Childs, *Ethos Law Group*

We will explore the challenges that the women we work with face in the area of information and privacy. Herstories of resistance and rights related to information and privacy will also be reviewed. In particular we'll look at women's rights to confidentiality, best practices for collecting or releasing women's information, and resisting disclosure of women’s information.

**B4. Older Women's Rights Matter**

**Presenters:** Alana Prochuk and Shahnaz Rahman, *West Coast LEAF*

What's to be gained from applying a gender lens to elder abuse - and an ageing lens to violence against women? And what legal issues are particularly likely to touch the lives of diverse older women who have experienced abuse? Join this session to learn how West Coast LEAF and the Canadian Centre for Elder Law have deepened our understanding of older women's legal needs through the Older Women's Dialogue Project and addressed the shortage of accessible legal information tailored to older women through the Older Women's Legal Education Project. We will highlight some key learnings from both projects and introduce you to legal information resources you can use in your work serving older women - our Roads to Safety legal handbook and multilingual wallet cards. We will also showcase law reform tools created by older women to address key barriers to their safety, health and well-being.

**B5. Feminist Resources: Strengthening Human Resources by applying Feminist principles**

**Presenter:** Alison Brewin

This workshop will explore traditional HR management, conflict resolution and staff engagement through a feminist lens. Specifically for Executive Directors, participants will explore questions like: How do we manage conflict and interpersonal office issues in ways that reflect values such as equality, justice, experiential knowledge, anti-racism and empowerment? How do we walk the talk as feminist managers? How do we keep feminist services moving while acknowledging the importance of process and power-sharing? How do we celebrate life experience while accessing professional skills and
B6. BC Housing Updates
Presenter: Sairoz Sekhon, BC Housing

In this workshop, program updates will be shared regarding the administration of the Women's Transition Housing & Supports Program including agreement renewal, quarterly data collection process, Victims of Family Violence Funding (renovation/repair funding), etc. any applicable updates related to BC Housing and affordable housing opportunities may also be included.

C1. Upholding Dignity for Mothers and Children
Presenters: Tracy Myers, Haven Society; Andrea Thompson

In the context of violence against pregnant and parenting women, we are eager to engage with conference participants in a discussion to promote early childhood development through an intersectional feminist lens. The anti-violence and early years sectors tend to function in silos within BC. This division not only leads to missed opportunities for shared learning and advocacy but also can have deleterious consequences. We will facilitate a highly interactive session to foster dialogue, explore systemic barriers, and share promising practices.

C2. Facilitating from the Heart: Creating Safe Learning Spaces for Youth
Presenter: Susana Guardado, Ready to Rent BC

Facilitating relationship violence workshops for youth is a delicate art. How do you make a difficult topic fun? Engaging? And comfortable? Facilitating from the Heart will create a space for you to deepen your facilitation skills. In this workshop we will examine how to create a safe container for meaningful conversations about relationship violence with youth in group settings. Participants will learn tools and techniques to create a smooth session, increase interaction and engagement with youth, and discover ways to deal with difficult and challenging situations. We will learn from each other's experiences, successes and challenges. Come and fine tune your facilitation and presentation skills!
C3. Understanding Protection Orders
Presenters: Kim Hawkins and Vandana Sood, Rise Women’s Legal Centre

This workshop will provide an update regarding services at Rise Women’s Legal Centre, including remote service projects if approved. We will review laws relating to protection orders and steps required to apply, as well as an update on the provincial government’s commitment to serving protection orders. We will also complete a review of McKenzie Friend guidelines.

C4. Visions for Transition Houses of the Future
Presenters: Lise Martin and Kaitlin Bardswich, Women’s Shelters Canada

Although transition houses were initially established to provide women with a safe place to stay, they have become much more than this. For many communities across the country, they are the hub for a multitude of services required by women fleeing violence. Women’s Shelters Canada is developing a national comprehensive profile of shelters and transition houses, which will serve as a springboard for a national conversation on "Transition Houses of the Future."

In BC, this conversation will occur within this workshop. We will explore the evolving role of transition houses in addressing violence against women. This will be an opportunity for BC transition house workers to share their visions for transition houses of the future - what they see as the main obstacles and opportunities in helping women and eventually ending violence against women. The input gathered at this session will be integrated into a national narrative on shelters/transition houses of the future.

C5. Campus Security
Presenters: Airika Owen and Tina Daye, Northern Society for Domestic Peace (NSDP)

With funding from the Institute of Justice and Telus, NSDP developed a presentation for students, that focuses on contributing factors to the high rates of campus sexual assault including: alcohol, hook-up culture, gender stereotypes, reporting options, informed consent, bystander intervention, institutional responsibility, campus and host city resources etc.. This presentation focuses on how Canadian schools have historically handled campus sexual assault and the new policy changes currently underway. We will look at what efforts on campuses can bring about real change and how schools can best support the mandated policies now in place. We will explain NSDP’s efforts to develop easily accessible support resources for rural students heading to post-secondary schools and how other service providers can tailor that material to be used in secondary schools across the province and how to best adapt the materials for young men or young women.
C6. Connecting to the Sacred
Presenters: Terriea Harris, Battered Women’s Support Services

Through authentic dialogue and experiential exercises we will move towards bridging the separation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Participants will explore Indigenous worldview teachings, engage in historical context, explore biases and perceptions that inform policy and interactions, self-awareness and explore ideas to decolonize their work and interactions with the Indigenous women and children they serve.

D1. Visions for Transition Houses of the Future (Repeat from Thursday)
Presenters: Lise Martin and Kaitlin Bardswich, Women’s Shelters Canada

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D2. How to Handle Applications by Defence Counsel in Criminal Assault Cases for Counselling Records, under section 278 of the Criminal Code (for Sexual Assaults)
Presenter: Gwendoline Allison, Foy Allison Law

Under section 278 of the Criminal Code and the common law, accused people in assault cases may apply to court for disclosure of the confidential counselling records of transition houses. The purpose of disclosure is to provide material which could be used to undermine the client’s version of events, her credibility or her reliability.

Allison has acted for complainants and third party records holders, and has noticed a recent increase in the number of applications for disclosure of third party records. Quite often the third party records
holder has neither the capacity nor the resources to defend their records appropriately, and, lawyers and judges are not familiar with the applicable law. Allison will present on the law relating to such applications and provide practical tools both in protecting records and responding to applications. Allison will be joined by a third party records holder, who will share their experiences of defending their records in an application.

**D3. Yoga Tools for Youth**  
**Presenter: Niki Lacey, Yoga Outreach**

Are you interested in sharing yoga with your clients or students? Would you like to empower them to use yoga for self-care and stress reduction? Yoga Outreach has developed a training just for youth! Learning objectives include: Impacts of breathing practices, breathing practices for use in daily stress management, impacts of mindfulness practices, mindfulness practices for use in daily stress management, impacts of grounding and rhythmic movement, grounding and rhythmic movement practices for use in daily stress management.

This will be an experiential workshop with the intention of providing techniques to aid in calming the body and mind and reduction of anxiety. We will utilize tools to activate various sensory elements to connect the mind to the body and to one’s immediate surroundings.

**D4. The Transition House Movement in British Columbia, Then and Now: How Did We Get Here and Where are We Going?**  
**Presenters: Lisa Rupert, YWCA Vancouver; Daisy Kler and Kelly Western, Vancouver Rape Relief and Women’s Shelter; Laurie Parsons, Ishtar Transition House Society**

This workshop features a panel of three women who have worked in the transition house movement in some of the first transition houses in the province and a woman who has lived experience of residing in a transition house. The panel will reflect on the values, beliefs, goals and practices of the transition house movement in British Columbia from its beginnings in the 1970s and 80s to present day, discussing how transition houses have changed over the years, and examining the external and internal reasons for these changes and their impact, and suggesting how to reconcile the original goals with the current context in which we operate. To know where we are going, we need to remember where we came from.
D5. The BELIEVE Project: An Overview and Training for CWWA Counsellors on the new Sexual Violence VIP Curriculum
Presenter: Sonia Bhatia, BC Society of Transition Houses, and Kerri Isham, Member of the BELIEVE Working Group and Advisory Committee

Since 2004, Children Who Witness Abuse (CWWA) Programs have been partnering with educators of grades K - 12 in schools in their community to increase awareness about domestic violence and the impact domestic violence has on children and youth. Currently in classrooms, CWWA programs are faced with questions about experiences of sexual violence happening to girls in BC schools and the community. The BCSTH BELIEVE project, coordinated by Sonia Bhatia, BCSTH Children and Youth Services Coordinator, with funding from the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General (MPSSG), is developing an extension of the Violence Is Preventable Program (VIP) curriculum that equips CWWA Counsellors to educate and support youth affected by sexual violence. Join us if you are a CWWA program who is a BELIEVE project pilot site or a CWWA Counsellor who would like to learn more about the curriculum and resources developed by the BELIEVE Working Group and Advisory Committee in partnership with the BCSTH.