

MMFC e-News

Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research
Centre Muriel McQueen Fergusson pour la recherche sur la violence familiale



Report-Back on a Successful 2019 National Conference!

Ending Gender Based Violence: Harnessing Research and Action for Social Change was a successful conference by several measures. The organizing committee was delighted that researchers from a range of academic disciplinary perspectives as well as family violence service providers and government workers responded to our call for papers/presentations. The line-up of presentations reflected the kind of multidisciplinary collaboration and action-oriented research that the MMFC has fostered over the years. 63 people, including 2 postdoctoral fellows and 8 graduate students, took part in presentations of their work from across Canada as well as Washington, DC and London, England. Approximately 135 people attended the conference – many from the Maritime provinces but others from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. Participants had the opportunity to learn about contemporary research, innovative service delivery and responses to recent policy and legislative changes in response to gender based violence.

International scholars conducting research on the use of parental alienation in the courts showed a shift in focus from the children's best interests to repairing parental relationships with children. Mothers' attempts to protect children from the harms of family violence are labeled as "implacably hostile" and fathers' "rights" are defended. Despite the persistence of high rates of domestic violence and domestic homicide, Myrna Dawson suggested that the general public does

not grasp that everyday terrorism against women is taking place in Canada because we are socialized to believe that gender based violence is normal. She urged us to focus our energies on systemic change. Paul Mazerolle's research on the police response to gender based violence in Australia showed that training on intimate partner violence alone does not lead to change. Training makes no difference in the practices of police without confidence. The question of how to enhance police confidence in responding to IPV remains to be answered. Feedback from participants included:

The conference was excellent! It ran smoothly and everything seemed to run on time... The caliber of speakers and presentations were excellent.

Congratulations on a successful hosting of the conference last week. The panels were extremely informative and some of the research topics made me hopeful :)

An important aspect of the conference was networking – opportunities for future collaborations were discussed and plans made for knowledge and resource transfer between contexts.

All of this could not have taken place without the generous support of conference funders: University of New Brunswick's Sociology Department, Gender and Women's Studies Program, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law, St. Thomas University's Office of Research Services, the Women's Equality Branch (Executive Council Office), Government of New Brunswick, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



MMFC Researchers

photo credit Jeff Crawford

Welcome to Our New Board Members!

The MMFC would like to welcome two new board members:



Lyne Chantal Boudreau, Professor at the Université de Moncton

Welcome Lyne
Chantal and
Geneviève!



Geneviève Latour, Executive Director of Crossroads Transition House for Women in

The MMFC also thanks Martine Stewart for taking on the role of Chair of the Board of Directors since January 2019. Martine is the Director of the Violence Prevention and Community Partnerships Unit with the Women's Equality Branch, Executive Council Office, where she coordinates the implementation of the Government of New Brunswick actions on violence against women. This work is done by a team of 8 in partnership with government departments and community agencies across the province. She is proud to have led the team in updating the Women Victims of Abuse Protocols, rolling out Danger Assessment training, developing and implementing the NB Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls and the Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in New Brunswick: A Framework for Action. Current initiatives to understand and inform others on the impact of domestic and intimate partner violence on children and youth and on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls to Justice are important to her and to the Women's Equality Branch. Martine considers it a privilege to work with government departments on their initiatives to address gender-based violence, especially policy and legislation that have an impact on women and families. Equally she finds the expertise, dedication and commitment of community agencies, the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre and Fergusson Foundation to be impressive and unwavering. Her most difficult and challenging responsibility is that of sitting on the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee. Martine has thirty years of experience working in the provincial government in program and policy development, implementation and monitoring and intergovernmental relations. She is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick and resides in New Maryland.



Martine Stewart,
Chair, MMFC Board
of Directors

New safety planning APP connects women living with intimate partner violence to helpful services

Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick (PLEIS-NB) is pleased to announce that, in partnership with the New Brunswick Department of Public Safety, Victim Services, and the New Brunswick Community College (NBCC), they have developed a free safety-planning app for women experiencing intimate partner violence in New Brunswick. Learn more and [get the free EVO App here.](#)

Upcoming Events

Workshop: Trauma-Informed Approach to Helping Each Other November 7 at 5-6:30 pm, MMFC (678 Windsor Street, UNB Fredericton)

This workshop is being offered by the MMFC in collaboration with the Immigrant Women's Association of New Brunswick. The workshop will introduce the connection between abuse, the impacts of trauma and how we can all help those who are suffering from abuse in a trauma-informed way. The IWANB invites all women interested in this workshop to contact them at nbiwa.afinb@gmail.com or at their [Facebook page](#) if interested in attending this event.

CASW Webinar: Assessing Danger in Abusive Relationships An Overview of Intimate Partner Violence and Risk Factors for Lethality November 14 at 2 pm AST, MMFC (678 Windsor Street, Fredericton)

This webinar is being offered by the MMFC to members of the [Canadian Association of Social Workers](#). November is Family Violence Prevention Month in Canada. In that vein, this webinar will give an overview of domestic or intimate partner violence and the different forms in which it is manifested, particularly among male-female relationships. It will highlight the pervasiveness of a specific kind of domestic violence, namely the pattern of control and power over another person, and its impacts on its victims. Finally, it will examine risk factors that can be used to identify potentially lethal situations, in an effort to prevent domestic homicides, the ultimate impact of an abusive relationship. Safety planning will be emphasized as a method of working with clients in abusive relationships.

Webinaire pour les membres de l'ACTS: Évaluer le danger dans les relations violentes. Un aperçu de la violence entre partenaires intimes et les facteurs de risque pour la létalité Le 28 novembre à 14h AST, CMMF (678, rue Windsor, Fredericton)

Ce webinaire va être donné par le CMMF aux membres de l'[Association canadienne des travailleuses et travailleurs sociaux](#). Novembre est le Mois de la prévention de la violence familiale au Canada. Dans cet esprit, ce webinaire donnera un aperçu de la violence familiale ou conjugale et des diverses formes sous lesquelles elle se manifeste, en particulier dans les relations hommes-femmes. Il mettra en lumière l'omniprésence d'un type spécifique de violence familiale, à savoir le modèle de contrôle et de pouvoir, de même que ses impacts sur ses victimes. Enfin, nous examinerons les facteurs de risque qui peuvent être utilisés pour identifier les situations potentiellement mortelles, dans le but de prévenir l'impact ultime d'une relation violente, à savoir l'homicide. L'accent sera mis sur la planification de la sécurité avec les clients dans les relations de violence.

It's Your Business to Care: The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on the Workplace December 2 & December 3, 2019

Presented by members of the MMFC's Domestic & Intimate Partner Violence (DIPV) in the Workplace Committee, this workshop helps employers become aware of risk factors, signs and appropriate responses when taking action to address DIPV and its impacts on the workplace.

The "It's Your Business: A Domestic & Intimate Partner Violence Workplace Toolkit" along with the "Individualized Workplace Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Safety Plan" will be presented as part of a workshop series for Government of New Brunswick Human Resources personnel. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in interactive scenarios that will help develop employee coaching and safety planning skills.



For more information, visit:
www.unb.ca/mmfc



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