

RESOLVE Research Day 2007



by Leslie Tutty

The RESOLVE Research Day 2007 conference took place on November 6th in Calgary, and according to the feedback we received, the day was a success! Approximately 150 registrants attended the conference.

New this year, RESOLVE partnered with the Calgary Domestic Violence Committee "Knowledge Sharing Forum" who presented on November 5th, the day before the research conference. These workshops provided more in-depth opportunities for service providers across the province to share their expertise and to discuss different techniques, challenges, and strategies when dealing with family violence. More important, a number of the programs highlighted on the Monday had parallel research presentations on Tuesday's RESOLVE Research Day. The concurrent practice and research conferences fit well with RESOLVE's commitment to conduct action oriented research that provides practical solutions to our community partners.

The keynote speaker for the RESOLVE conference, Robyn Holder from Australia, inspired the audience with her presentation "Sisyphus in the Criminal Justice System: Reform in the Australian Capital Territory 1998-2007", setting the stage for a productive day. Robyn has been instrumental in a number of system change



Helen McPhaden (left), Stephanie Martin, and Jane Oxenbury

liaison within police and prosecution, responses to, and improved responses to victims of sexual assault and of residential burglary. Robyn has been chair of the coordinating committee of the Family Violence Intervention Program since its inception in 1998. The FVIP is an integrated and coordinated criminal justice response to family violence and has won a number of national awards for its innovation. Our other Australian guests, Elizabeth Moore and Paul Mazerolle, each presented their research in subsequent sessions.

The conference included 42 presentations from academics and community representatives across Canada speaking about their latest results on programs, policies, and best practices to address intimate partner violence and child abuse from justice, mental health, health, and counselling perspectives. From the Canadian west coast we welcomed Margaret Jackson from Vancouver; from the east, Carmen Gill, Rina Arseneault and Elizabeth Blaney, all from the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research at the University of New Brunswick. The presentation topics were truly comprehensive, ranging from the efficacy of groups for abused women and men who perpetrate abuse, critical issues for abused women and children, diversity issues with respect to Aboriginal girls, issues about sexual assault and different models of specialized domestic violence courts. Thanks to everyone involved!



Elizabeth Moore (left), Leslie Tutty, Robyn Holder, Paul Mazerolle and, Jane Urse