

# FAMILY VIOLENCE

REPORT OF THE

## TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

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REPORT of the  
Task Force on Family Violence

May 1979

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## INTRODUCTION

### The Task Force on Family Violence

The Task Force on Family Violence, operating under the auspices of United Way of the Lower Mainland, was organized to implement the recommendations of the Symposium on Family Violence held in Vancouver in March 1977. The objectives of the Task Force therefore included building public and professional awareness of the extent and serious nature of family violence, facilitating a co-ordinated multidisciplinary approach to the problems identified and taking initial steps in priority areas.

Members of the Task Force represented 40 different provincial and local social agencies, women's organizations, medical, legal and educational services, and the Social Planning and Research Committee of United Way. Working groups were formed to further symposium objectives related to Child Abuse and Neglect, Wife Battering, Law, and Education. (See Appendices I and II) All working groups and committees met at least monthly, co-ordinated by Social Planning and Research (SPAR) staff Patricia Ross (May 1977 - October 1977) and Flora MacLeod (November 1977 - January 1979).

### The Focus on Child Abuse and Neglect, and Wife Battering

Legislation directed towards the protection of children has been in effect in B.C. since the turn of the century. However, it was not until the early 1960's that the battered child syndrome was identified and attention focussed not only on the incidental occurrence of maltreatment or neglect but on the sets of behaviour within a family which lead to recurring abuse or neglect.

Identification of wife battering as a widespread and severe form of family violence is even more recent. In the early 1970's in Europe and North America feminist organizations worked to establish refuges, known in B.C. as Transition Houses, to provide protection and help for battered women and their children.

Other forms of family violence recently have been identified as important social problems, but the two major topics examined at the Symposium, in current research in the U.S. and locally at SPAR, were child abuse and neglect and wife battering. It was around these two topics that the Task Force organized its work.

### Family Violence: Some Common Elements

One of the outcomes of Task Force activity was a growing awareness on the part of participants of the scope and interrelated effects of family violence. Whether their contact with the Task Force initiated with a concern for children who are abused or for women who are battered, resource persons increasingly recognized certain elements as common to both problems. These elements, like recurring themes, emerged in the course of work with field staff, educators and individuals with extensive experience in dealing with family violence on a day-to-day basis. They are listed here not to imply that, for example, wife battering will usually occur in the same family in which a child is abused. They may however, constitute a useful framework for more extensive and in-depth field practice and for increasing awareness of the dynamics of violence within the family.

#### 1. The family can be and often is a violent place

The family is one of the most important of our social institutions. However, our concern for the family has led us to ignore the fact that the family is often a cloak for violence and abuse. At the Symposium on Family Violence and in recent publications, Murray Straus, a leading researcher in family violence, describes the family as the most violent institution, group or setting that a typical citizen is likely to encounter. Further, violence in the family is generally accepted as legitimate to a degree that would not apply in a work place or in public. What may be considered appropriate use of force in one setting would constitute assault in another.

The initial task of resource persons at workshops generally was to present these facts (see Appendix VII). Examples raised were, for instance, the physically enforced imposition of will by parents on children or by husbands on wives. This latter, Straus described as "the ultimate resource to back up (the husband's) position as 'head' of the family".

#### 2. The pervasiveness of family violence

Family violence is not a rare event. It happens in families of all cultural and social backgrounds, ages and income levels. The case studies raised by workshop participants and the experiences recounted by people who come from violent homes supported these assertions.

#### 3. The social and legal effects of family membership

The imbalance of power in family relationships is reflected in our laws and administrative policy. What Straus describes as the involuntary nature of family membership was a familiar idea to people in B.C. who have worked towards the enactment of a Bill of Rights for children. Membership in a family constrains and effects how people are viewed by courts and by government authorities. Examples raised were the assigning of assault cases to family rather than criminal court if the parties were married to each other and the denial of social assistance to battered women trying to escape from a violent home situation.

#### 4. The cyclical nature of family violence

The pattern of using force to resolve conflict in a home tends to be repeated in subsequent generations. Children who are victimized may treat their own children in the same way. Children who are victimized by witnessing violence in their home may carry over that experience to their adult relationships. A violent environment deeply affects children whether or not they are physically a target.

#### 5. Pregnancy and family violence

Child abuse and wife battering are directly related in the documentation of increased attacks on women during pregnancy, attacks which include kicking and punching the stomach. Repeatedly, accounts of the first assault in a marriage occurs with the first pregnancy. Researchers describe the practice as intrauterine child abuse.

#### 6. Alcohol abuse and family violence

Recent research findings and the experience of field practitioners support the conclusion that there is no simple association between alcohol abuse and violence in the family. Alcohol abuse does not explain wife battering or child abuse. The relationship of alcohol abuse to family violence was a topic at three provincial workshops. Participants generally agreed that abuse of alcohol or alcoholism should no longer be accepted in society or by the courts as an excuse for unacceptable behaviour.

#### 7. Intervention in family violence

Professional practitioners are often reluctant to intervene in cases of child abuse or wife battering. A recent SPAR study on obstacles to identifying and reporting child abuse documented this reluctance and the extent to which practitioners are ill-informed about their responsibility to report any suspicion of child abuse. Social workers are particularly unsure about their mandate to "interfere" in wife battering situations even in cases in which the woman concerned is already a client. It appears that the mandate for intervention in family violence situations, even on an emergency basis, remains confused and subject to great variations in practice in different agencies and in different communities.

### Task Force on Family Violence Recommendations

The recommendations in this report reflect the experience of Task Force members in their respective agencies and services and in their association with Family Violence workshops and other undertakings described in this report. While the recommendations are not necessarily derived directly from an analysis of research data, they have a firm basis in informed opinion and the experience of professionals recognized as leaders in their field, currently involved practitioners from a range of services and levels of practice and knowledgeable lay people active in their respective communities.

The Task Force wishes to make it clear that while the recommendations are wide-ranging and include both the general and specific, they were not generated in any systematic manner. They are not by any means a comprehensive or exclusive list of what needs to be done.

The prime objective of this report is to provide a "baseline" document of concerns which are still prominent two years after the Family Violence Symposium which publicly defined the issues and identified problem areas. Some progress has been made but the work of changing attitudes and of changing institutions and procedures which reflect old attitudes is a long term task.

In the course of its work the Task Force has learned that family violence, a major social problem, is not accorded the attention or financial resources it deserves. We have learned that one cannot deal with this issue for any length of time without seriously criticizing many of society's attitudes and values, its social welfare, legal and educational institutions. We believe government must evaluate its performance as the major provider of aid to abused children and battered women. We particularly encourage private agencies and organizations, interest and citizen groups and women's organizations to continue their important role in monitoring and evaluating the delivery of services to those who are victims of family violence.

WORKING GROUP ON WIFE BATTERING

Women and women's groups have been concerned about the legal, social and economic situation of battered women in B.C. since the early 1970's. The Symposium on Family Violence held in Vancouver in March 1977 was the first major public platform for the discussion of these problems. The Symposium focussed on the following in the area of wife battering: court procedures, police response, attitudes of professionals in health, social service, legal and research fields, availability of economic and support services and the serious nature and extent of the problem.

Specifically, Symposium participants identified the following problems:

- wife battering is not taken seriously by professionals or the public
- there are few economic or personal support services; agencies are not geared to help
- income assistance is difficult to get when a woman wants to leave a violent situation
- many women have little work experience
- there is a lack of crisis shelter, financial support and adequate low-cost housing
- court procedures are slow and often unsatisfactory
- the police have few services to call on

Women who had been beaten identified their immediate needs as relevant information, practical help and financial assistance, opportunity to acquire skills and jobs and adequate housing. They did not see the need for therapy or in-depth counselling.

Specific recommendations from the Symposium focussed on the following topics:

- development and funding for self-help support groups
- establishment of Transition Houses in every area throughout the province, including company towns
- interim and co-operative housing
- recognition of wife-battering as a crime
- remedies for batterers
- development of support services for women and their children in relevant agencies including Manpower
- child care, including after-school programmes and crisis nurseries
- access to income assistance and emergency funds
- extension of income assistance to sponsored immigrant wives without fear of deportation
- public education and information
- basic professional education, in-service training and updating

The mandate of the working group on wife battering was to work towards practical solutions indicated in the above listed recommendations.

The committee based its work on the belief that:

- a woman and her children constitute a viable family unit
- it is extremely destructive for a woman and children to be forced to remain in a violent family situation
- women who want to leave a violent situation should be given every opportunity to do so, including financial assistance and shelter

When a battered woman and her children require Income Assistance for a period of time from the Ministry of Human Resources, present policy indicates that she (to quote the policy manual) "is expected to take all necessary steps to obtain financial support from the spouse for herself and her dependents". The Ministry stresses reconciliation and court action if necessary to obtain maintenance payments from the husband.

The Task Force believes that this policy operates to the detriment of women and children living in an unsatisfactory home environment. We believe this policy makes it difficult financially and emotionally for people in an already difficult situation and encourages Ministry of Human Resources employees to universally and inappropriately stress marriage reconciliation or court action under the Family Relations Act. The Task Force recommends:

THAT A SEPARATE SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY MANUAL BE WRITTEN IN THE SAME WAY THAT A SECTION IS DEVOTED TO CHILD ABUSE POLICY TO DEAL WITH POLICY RELATING TO WOMEN IN A VIOLENT LIVING SITUATION.

THAT ANY STATEMENT THAT A WOMAN DOES NOT WISH TO CONSIDER RECONCILIATION BE ACCEPTED BY THE FINANCIAL OR SOCIAL WORKERS.

THAT WOMEN NOT BE ROUTINELY REQUIRED TO INITIATE LEGAL ACTION TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

THAT A WOMAN'S STATEMENT OF FEAR OF RETALIATION OR RELUCTANCE TO RETURN TO A LIVING SITUATION BE ACCEPTED AND THAT THE POLICY PHRASE "WHERE THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY HAS EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF THE RECIPIENT OR APPLICANT" BE OMITTED.

The following describes the activities of the Working Group during the term of the Task Force.

1. Support Groups for Battered Women

A pilot project for a women's support group programme was begun in March 1978 by Gillian Walker and Joann Robertson. The programme was based on a self-help model which has worked successfully in post partum counselling. Appendix III, the report to the Task Force by Gillian Walker, includes the objectives, the grounding assumptions of the programme and the initial plan for the training and service project. The experience of support group leaders to date is summarized. Two major needs identified were:

- a) support for women who have left a violent situation and are trying to make a new life for themselves and their children. Support groups could focus on ways of dealing with practical problems, mutual support, sharing of feelings and confidence building.

To help meet this need, a training group for leaders was undertaken, the women involved coming from various community groups working with women, and having a demonstrated interest in the problem. Two support groups were then begun with women who had been residents of Ishtar Transition House and one is now being planned for Vancouver Transition House residents. The Task Force recommends:

THAT SUPPORT GROUPS FOR WOMEN WHO HAVE LEFT VIOLENT HOMES BE INITIATED IN COMMUNITY BASED GROUPS AND AGENCIES AS WELL AS MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT.

THAT ONGOING FUNDING BE PROVIDED TO SUCH PROGRAMMES TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF THIS IMPORTANT SERVICE FOR BATTERED WOMEN.

- b) assistance for women who are still in a violent situation and want their lives to improve.

The problems of such women remain virtually untouched. During the course of the Task Force, women still in a battering situation would often call one or another member of the committee, but were unprepared to seek further help because of fear of reprisals (a fear that is substantiated by research). In most cases they would not give their names or phone numbers. Recreation workers involved with the Task Force reported that they often saw women in various programmes who appear to have suffered beatings, but the workers did not know how to approach them, or if they did attempt to do so would find that the women did not return to their agency.

The Task Force recommends:

THAT AGENCIES COMING IN CONTACT WITH WOMEN GENERALLY AND THOSE WHICH DEAL WITH OTHER FAMILY PROBLEMS PARTICULARLY BE ALERTED TO INCIDENTS OF WIFE BATTERING IN THEIR CASELOADS.

THAT WAYS OF IDENTIFYING, ASSISTING AND PROTECTING WOMEN WHO ARE STILL IN A VIOLENT SITUATION BE DEVELOPED AND THAT THIS PROBLEM BE CONSIDERED A PRIORITY ISSUE OF SOCIAL AGENCY PROGRAMMES CONCERNED WITH FAMILY VIOLENCE.

In order to ensure that the work of training group leaders and establishing support groups for women continues, the Task Force has encouraged community based groups and agencies to undertake support group programmes. Currently we are working in co-operation with Family Services of Greater Vancouver to formulate a proposal for a demonstration project to be funded privately or from government sources. In this proposal, training for leaders and support group service is planned both for battered women and for men who batter their partners. The Task Force strongly endorses the support group programme as one of the most innovative and directly preventive services so far available, commends Family Services of Greater Vancouver for its work on behalf of the project and recommends:

THAT SECURE FINANCIAL RESOURCES BE LOCATED FROM PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SOURCES FOR SUPPORT GROUP PROJECTS TO ALLOW THE DEVELOPMENT, DOCUMENTATION AND TESTING OF TRAINING APPROACHES AND SELF-HELP GROUP CONCEPTS.

## 2. Transition Houses

The Vancouver Transition House, in operation since 1973, was incorporated into the services of the Vancouver Resources Board and subsequently of the Ministry of Human Resources. Other Transition Houses have been established in Langley, Victoria, Vernon, Prince George, and most recently in Port Coquitlam. Local groups in Richmond, Burnaby and on the North Shore continue to struggle for recognition of the need for the service and for funding. Members of the Working Group have received many requests from community groups for assistance in setting up facilities in other areas. The Working Group, with the full support of the Task Force, identified the need for Transition Houses as a major priority. Research findings and the experience of existing shelters locally and abroad demonstrate this need. In B.C., within weeks of opening, Transition Houses must turn women away; Vancouver Transition House now turns away as many women and children as it accommodates.

Over and over, women who have been through the experience of leaving a violent situation identify Transition House as the most effective service the community has offered them. Transition Houses meet the most basic and practical needs of shelter, safety, a sense of security, child care, counselling, clothing, information and referral services. As well, they offer emotional and group support, sharing and the opportunity to develop a sense of self-worth. In contrast, the traditional forms of crisis shelter for battered women (billeting in hotels and vouchers for motels) are often humiliating and generally ineffective, doing nothing toward long-term solutions.

Where Transition Houses exist, they are used extensively by other agencies; records show that most referrals come from Ministry of Human Resources, health care personnel, crisis centres and police.

The Task Force recommends:

THAT TRANSITION HOUSES BE ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE, WITH ADEQUATE PUBLIC FUNDING TO PROVIDE 24-HOUR STAFF AND SERVICES.

THAT TRANSITION HOUSES BE A SERVICE DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR BATTERED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN AND THAT EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION OF OTHER PEOPLE IN NEED SUCH AS TRANSIENT MEN AND WOMEN, OUTPATIENTS FROM MENTAL HOSPITALS, ALCOHOLICS, RUNAWAYS AND JUVENILES OR OTHER CHILDREN IN NEED OF SHELTER BE FOUND IN SOME MORE APPROPRIATE SETTING AND THAT TRANSITION HOUSES NOT BE USED AS HOSTELS OR HOLDING CENTRES.

THAT FUNDS BE AVAILABLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF THIS SERVICE, BASED ON THE VARIETY OF TRANSITION HOUSE MODELS IN B.C., WITH GUIDELINES FOR THEIR ESTABLISHMENT IN VARIOUS KINDS OF COMMUNITIES.

THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKE A COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME REGARDING WIFE-BATTERING, KEEPING IN MIND THAT A FULL-SCALE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN MUST BE COMPLIMENTED BY IMPROVED SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES.

### 3. Second Stage Housing for Battered Women

The recommendations resulting from the Symposium on Family Violence, the work of the Task Force on Family Violence and the research conducted by the Social Planning and Research Department of United Way, all confirm that both transition housing and second stage housing for battered women and their children are priority service needs. During the past two years, the Vancouver Y.W.C.A. has undertaken the task of planning and seeking funds for second stage accommodation for battered women who have sought refuge in Transition Houses.

The Y.W.C.A. plan has been supported by the staff of the Vancouver Transition House as a means by which better use can be made of their facility as crisis accommodation. Mothers and their children would be less likely to return to a dangerous situation because alternate plans cannot be completed quickly enough. Women who would otherwise struggle alone at great cost to themselves and their children would have some assistance in becoming established while attempting to meet all the demands of child care and the restructuring of their personal lives.

Recently the Y.W.C.A. proposal for accommodation, known as Interim House, has received support from a range of agencies. A suitable house in a residential area has been made available by the Provincial Department of Housing. The Ministry of Human Resources has agreed to provide funds for furnishings. Private agencies including the Y.W.C.A. of Canada, the United Church of Canada and the East Enders Association have contributed seed money to provide staff services to Interim House. Budget requirements have been met for the first year's operation and the house should be open late this spring. A brief description of Interim House drawn from the Y.W.C.A. proposal is attached as Appendix IV.

The Task Force commends the work done by the Y.W.C.A. in this area and makes the following recommendations:

THAT SECOND STAGE HOUSING IN VANCOUVER RECEIVE ASSURANCE OF CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE STABILITY AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICE.

THAT IF NEED REMAINS ACUTE, OTHER SECOND STAGE HOUSING PROJECTS BE PLANNED IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT B.C.

THAT FULL RECOGNITION BE GIVEN TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE "FOLLOW-UP" ASPECT OF SECOND STAGE HOUSING AND SUFFICIENT STAFF PROVIDED TO AID FAMILIES IN THE TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE.

#### 4. Support Groups for Men who Batter Women

An important service gap identified by symposium participants was the lack of aid for men attempting to change their patterns of violent behaviour. Increasingly those who work with children are becoming aware of the effect of violent homes on the emotional well-being of children. Some form of service for men who batter was seen as a positive means of intervention in the recurring cycle of violence in families.

As a first step, training of group leaders was planned. Members of the wife battering working group and men interested in an experimental programme for batterers met with Dr. Larry Shulman of the UBC School of Social Work to set up training and peer supervision procedures.

To date, five groups have been undertaken, led by either Jim McKenzie or Dale Trimble. Co-leaders for two of these groups were Hans Froese and Don Dutton. Appendix V, the Report to the Task Force on support groups for men, includes information by Jim McKenzie on the establishment of the groups, insights gained in the process and some of the limitations and problems encountered. The report contains Dale Trimble's description of the groups which have been conducted so far and comments on the need for follow-up study of group participants.

As already mentioned on page 8 of this report, the Task Force strongly supports the Family Services of Greater Vancouver proposal which would provide training for leaders and establish groups for women who have been battered and for men who are batterers. We believe that the interest shown from across Canada is a measure of the many innovative aspects of this project. Dale Trimble comments (Appendix V)

"To offer men, especially violent men, support in exploring their fears, needs and destructive use of force, whether physical or psychological, is to challenge in some basic way what we have as a culture accepted as a definition of masculinity. When that definition reaches the extreme of spousal violence we have either tried to ignore it if they were our neighbours or possibly ostracize it through the court system where the roots of violence are never dealt with. To provide a supportive service for violent men is to assume that men can have real human needs for which the violence is a defense. Whether this project receives funding may be intrinsically dependent on whether or not we as a society are ready to support men in the work of self-knowledge."

We believe that the support group concept may prove to have important practical and theoretical implications for reducing the incidence of family violence. However, women who decide to leave a violent situation must not be dissuaded from doing so on her husband's promise to attend such a group. Transition houses and other crisis and follow-up resources will still be necessary for those women who require a place of safety. Dale Trimble in the report to the Task Force (Appendix V) states:

"At this point a follow-up study is needed to more accurately determine whether or not those men who attended the groups did indeed stop using violence with their partners. It must be acknowledged at this point that we do not actually know if group counselling (and if so what form of group work) is the most effective form of intervention for the men in a wife-abuse situation."

The Task Force recommends:

THAT IN ANY SUPPORT OR TREATMENT GROUP FOR MEN WHO BATTER, ADEQUATE MONITORING AND EVALUATION BE CARRIED OUT TO DETERMINE THE ACTUAL EFFECT ON ENDING VIOLENCE IN THE HOME.

#### 5. Special Needs of Non-English Speaking Families

The problems of finding refuge from a violent home, counselling support and practical aid are even more acute for those who cannot speak English. They are cut off from the usual sources of information about services, resources and legal rights and are leaving not only a family home but their cultural environment as well. A sub-committee of the wife battering working group was formed specifically to work on problems experienced by immigrant women.

#### Work of the sub-committee

The first task of the committee was to organize a workshop in February 1978 for "line staff" who work with immigrant families. The workshop identified the following primary concerns:

There is a lack of basic skill training available for staff who work with immigrants in family situations. Lack of basic skills has often resulted in workers' reluctance to become involved in family violence situations.

The cultural attitude held by ethnic workers toward the family unit often makes it difficult for them to support women who need to leave the home.

The Vancouver Police Department is the agency which first deals with many cases of family violence. However, in cases of non-English speaking families, police have difficulty communicating with the victims.

Day care is an essential preventive service for all families. However, day care is costly and immigrant families may have difficulty qualifying for subsidy.

There are problems regarding the acceptance of complaints by the Justice of the Peace when there is an assault.

The sub-committee has worked with the Vancouver Police Department and the Equal Employment Opportunities Officer of the City of Vancouver to develop a recruitment programme for bilingual police. This programme includes press, radio and educational material. It is now being implemented and excellent response is being received from ethnic communities.

The second task of the sub-committee was to deal with the availability of translated material. The committee took the following actions:

Submitted to the Ministry of Health and Welfare a sample enclosure on wife battering and the availability of information and resources. The enclosure was designed to be translated into six languages besides English.

With the assistance of MOSAIC (Centre for Non-English Speaking Immigrants and Citizens) the pamphlet describing the services of Transition Houses and the location of five such residences in B.C. was produced in eight languages besides English. The Task Force has undertaken the initial distribution of these pamphlets which were printed by the Ministry of Human Resources.

The committee sponsored a slide/tape programme on the subject of emergency response to domestic crisis, Transition House and Family Court. The programme, called A Common Assault, will be distributed by MOSAIC. The programme will be available in six languages besides English and will be accompanied by pamphlets also in translation for use by viewers. The slide/tape shows were produced by Peg Campbell, media consultant to the Task Force, in co-operation with the various agencies and services depicted.

Not all the tasks set out by the sub-committee dealing with family violence in non-English speaking families were completed. The sub-committee in conjunction with the Task Force recommends:

THAT THE COLLEGE COUNCIL OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION MEET WITH APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENTS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK TO PLAN A CURRICULUM WHICH STRESSES THE PROBLEMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE.

THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DEVELOP CLEAR GUIDELINES REGARDING ACCEPTANCE OF COMPLAINTS OF ASSAULT OR THREAT OF ASSAULT BY THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE OF THE B.C. COURT.

THAT RECRUIT AND IN-SERVICE DOMESTIC DISPUTE INTERVENTION TRAINING BE GIVEN THE FULL COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT OF POLICE DEPARTMENTS AT ALL LEVELS OF COMMAND, AND THAT CHANGES IN COMMENDATION AND PROMOTION PROCEDURES BE MADE TO REFLECT AND REWARD THE PROPER HANDLING OF DOMESTIC CONFLICT.

THAT TRAINING REGARDING FAMILY VIOLENCE BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAMMES DIRECTED TO R.C.M.P., JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, AND SHERIFFS.

THAT THE PROVINCIAL MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE FEDERAL COMMISSION ON EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION MEET TO CLARIFY POLICY REGARDING DAY CARE SUBSIDIES TO LANDED IMMIGRANTS.

THAT POLICY BE DEVELOPED WHICH ALLOWS LANDED IMMIGRANTS TO QUALIFY FOR DAY CARE SUBSIDY WITHOUT JEOPARDY TO THEIR IMMIGRANT STATUS AND WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION.

LEGAL WORKING GROUP

The legal system is not well designed to assist battered wives. From what we are told, it is not uncommon for police officers and Justices of the Peace to tell a battered wife that her problem is a "civil matter". This in fact cannot be the case. So long as a woman is legally married to a man, she cannot sue him civilly for personal injuries which he may have caused her. Her only possible remedies are in criminal and matrimonial law. Although the criminal law makes no distinction between an assault committed on a member of a family and on a stranger (the assault is equally an offence, and potentially subject to the same penalty), there appears to be a strong tendency in the legal system, arising from the way it is administered and operated rather than from the letter of the law, to do everything possible to prevent family assaults from coming before the Criminal Courts and to deal with them, if they do manage to get there, in a different and less serious manner than assaults between strangers.

The Task Force does not advocate the use of criminal sanctions in every case of wife battering. However, it does advocate access to the court system for victims of family assault on a basis equal to that for victims of assault by strangers.

The Task Force makes several recommendations whose goal is to change the way family assaults are handled, so that they are taken as seriously as other assaults and so that they have a similar chance of being considered by a Court:

1. As our legal policy stands presently, responsibility is left with the victim to press charges and in some respects it is made difficult for her to do so. She is told to lay charges before a Justice of the Peace, and sometimes requested to wait a 24 hour "cooling off" period before doing so. It may be noted that recently in New York, apparently as a result of litigation on behalf of victims of wife battering, the New York City Police Department agreed to change its policy and to (1) arrest men who committed serious assaults against their wives so long as there is reasonable cause to believe that the crime has been committed and not to "mediate" in such cases, (2) to refrain from refusing to arrest a person in less serious assault cases simply because the parties are married, (3) to send police help whenever a woman calls and says her husband has assaulted her and threatened her, (4) to arrest the husband in all cases where a Court Order has been violated, and (5) to assist victims of wife battering in other ways such as remaining at the scene of the crime to help the victim to obtain medical help if necessary and to protect her from further violence if necessary. The Task Force recommends:

THAT ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5 ABOVE BECOME WRITTEN POLICY OF THE POLICE AUTHORITIES OF B.C. IMMEDIATELY; THAT IS, THAT

POLICE SEND HELP WHENEVER A WOMAN CALLS AND SAYS HER HUSBAND HAS ASSAULTED OR THREATENED HER, ARREST THE HUSBAND IN ALL CASES WHERE A COURT ORDER HAS BEEN VIOLATED AND ASSIST VICTIMS OF WIFE BATTERING IN OTHER WAYS SUCH AS OBTAINING MEDICAL HELP.

THAT POLICE AUTHORITIES IN B.C. ENFORCE A POLICY OF ARRESTING MEN WHO COMMIT SERIOUS ASSAULT AGAINST THEIR WIVES SO LONG AS THERE IS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT A CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED.

THAT POLICE ARREST A PERSON IN LESS SERIOUS ASSAULT CASES AS THEY WOULD IN CASES IN WHICH THE PARTIES WERE NOT MARRIED TO EACH OTHER.

2. Justices of the Peace should be required to allow women to press charges unless there is clear evidence that the complaint is groundless. We are told by those who have worked in Transition Houses that there have been occasions when Justices of the Peace have refused to accept a complaint, arguing that a "domestic dispute" should be taken to Family Court for other family related orders or services or that the woman should try to reconcile with her husband. The Task Force thinks that Justices of the Peace should be encouraged to afford the protection of the law to women who need it. It is recognized that a number of women do press charges and then change their minds, and that this may lie behind the reluctance of Police and Justices of the Peace to invoke criminal process. However, the deterrent which has been set up against this feared evil has created, we submit, a worse evil - namely, the inability of women who really need the protection of the law to obtain it. The Task Force recommends:

THAT JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BE REQUIRED BY POLICY TO ACCEPT INFORMATIONS FROM WOMEN ASSAULTED BY THEIR SPOUSES AND TO ALLOW COMPLAINANTS TO PRESS CHARGES UNLESS THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT A COMPLAINT IS GROUNDLESS.

3. In most cases, assaults by spouses on one another are proceeded with in Family Court rather than in Criminal Court, and it is recommended that normally such assaults should come before a Criminal Court. It may be that it is more convenient to proceed in Family Court when there are other related matters already before it, but when there are no such related matters, or when it is a serious assault, there are strong arguments in favour of having the matter heard in the same Court as all other crimes. The main such argument is that the charges will then have a better chance of being taken seriously and that there may be, as a result, some degree of protection for the victim. The Task Force recommends:

THAT AS A GENERAL RULE ASSAULT BY SPOUSES BE HEARD IN CRIMINAL COURT SO THAT THE ASSAULT WILL BE SEEN TO BE A CRIME RATHER THAN IN FAMILY COURT WHERE IT TENDS TO BE SEEN AS A "PRIVATE MATTER".

THAT COURTS CONSIDER MORE EXTENSIVE USE OF "NO CONTACT" ORDERS AS A PART OF SENTENCE TO MAKE PROTECTION FOR THE VICTIM MORE LIKELY.

4. The Task Force believes that persons involved in the administration of the courts, including Crown Prosecutors, should be given special training in the handling of wife battering cases and that efforts should be made to co-ordinate the work of everyone involved, so that all relevant information is available to the Court when a decision is made, and to the police when an Order has been made, so that it can be enforced. The Task Force recommends:

THAT TRAINING INVOLVING PEOPLE SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEMS OF BATTERED WOMEN BE PROVIDED TO ALL COURT PERSONNEL INCLUDING CROWN PROSECUTORS, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE EFFECTIVE CO-ORDINATION OF ROLES AND FUNCTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMPLAINANTS WHO COME TO THE COURT FOR PROTECTION.

5. In England, legislation has been passed, The Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976, which allows a spouse to apply to a Court in a summary manner as a civil procedure for an injunction against harassment or molestation by the other spouse. This injunction is backed up by a Power of Arrest by the police for breach. The Task Force recommends:

THAT LEGISLATION BE PASSED, SIMILAR TO THE ENGLISH ACT, WHICH WOULD ALLOW BATTERED WIVES PROTECTION AGAINST FURTHER ASSAULT WITHOUT THE NECESSITY TO INVOKE CRIMINAL CHARGES IF THE VICTIM DOES NOT WISH TO DO SO.

Another major problem is the lack of information available to battered wives. The legal working group gave some assistance to Margaret Ostrowski, who has prepared a booklet, "Legal Process for Battered Women". This is a handbook, a lay text in legal matters and procedures, designed for use by professional people who work with battered women and by the People's Law School. It will be produced and distributed by the Social Planning and Research Department of United Way of the Lower Mainland.

While the booklet will assist women who need to know about the details of the law, and will assist those who are trying to provide them with such information, it will not meet the needs of women in crisis who need ready information about emergency procedures and a clear step-by-step guide to Family Court. The Task Force recommends:

THAT A SERIES OF PAMPHLETS ON MAJOR TOPICS (THREATS AND ASSAULTS; LAYING A CHARGE; CIVIL, MATRIMONIAL AND CRIMINAL REMEDIES) DESIGNED FOR USE BY CLIENTS BE PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED TO CLIENTS BY THE MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (CORRECTIONS BRANCH) AND THAT SUCH INFORMATION ALSO BE PROVIDED IN THE MINORITY LANGUAGES COMMONLY USED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Child abuse, the physical aspect, was specifically identified as the "battered child syndrome" by Dr. Henry Kempe in 1961. Since that time professional and community awareness of the problem has grown. It is now recognized that child abuse is far more than physical injury - that it includes physical neglect, emotional abuse and neglect, as well as sexual abuse.

The recommendations of the Symposium on Family Violence had focussed on the issues of early identification of abuse and neglect, the co-ordination of a multi-disciplinary approach to identification and treatment and the need for advocacy structures within society to speak and act on behalf of children. Programs of public and professional education, preventive and support services and outreach in rural areas were the prime concerns.

The Working Group provided a useful vehicle for inter-agency communication and recognition that child abuse is an issue that requires full co-operation between the various Ministries and agencies.

Work Undertaken

1. The Working Group on Child Abuse and Neglect co-ordinated agency efforts related to identification of child abuse and development of policy for reporting. The Working Group worked in co-operation with the Social Planning and Research Department researcher, Harry Lieber, contributing to the formulation of policy recommendations contained in the study Obstacles to the Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse.

The Task Force recommends:

THAT THE MAJOR FINDINGS, SOCIAL POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RESEARCH REPORT OBSTACLES TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS AND BY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING HEALTH, EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.

THAT DATA COLLECTION BEGIN IN RELEVANT AGENCIES IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A BROADER BASE OF INFORMATION AS TO THE INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

2. Members of the Working Group participated as speakers and panelists at the August, 1977, World Mental Health Congress held in Vancouver, B.C.
3. The Working Group commented on the development of Children in Crisis Committees regionally and Inter-ministerial Committees on Children provincially. The Task Force recommends:

THAT THE MINISTER SUPPORT THE INTERMINISTERIAL APPROACH TO CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND ENCOURAGE THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO DO THE SAME.

THAT THE INTERMINISTERIAL HANDBOOK ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT BE GIVEN FULL ATTENTION BY FIELD STAFF OF ALL RELEVANT MINISTRIES TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF INTERVENTION RESPONSIBILITIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH INVOLVE INVOKING THE CRIMINAL PROCESS IN SEVERE CASES.

THAT CHILDREN-IN-CRISIS COMMITTEES AND INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEES BE EVALUATED AS TO THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT ON THE INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH AND DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES FOR ABUSE/NEGLECT PROVINCIALY.

THAT THE CHILD ABUSE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE CONTINUE TO MEET, INCLUDE MEMBERS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH FAMILY VIOLENCE PROBLEMS AND UNDERTAKE THE REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. The Task Force understands that the Ministry of Human Resources will establish a Zenith telephone number for facilitating reporting on a 24 hour basis from anywhere in the province. In view of the seriousness of the problem of child abuse and the ultimate statutory responsibility of the Ministry, we believe the Ministry should be sensitive to the needs for increased staff to deal adequately with increased reporting which will likely be generated by the Zenith line as documented in other jurisdictions. Further the Task Force recommends:

THAT FIELD STAFF AND STAFF HIRED TO ANSWER THE ZENITH LINE BE WELL QUALIFIED WITH APPROPRIATE SKILLS TO ASSIST THEM IN ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION IN CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES.

5. The Working Group initiated contact with the Ministry of Human Resources regarding a public education campaign on child abuse and neglect. We recommend:

THAT THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES FULFIL ITS COMMITMENT TO UNDERTAKE A COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME REGARDING CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT, KEEPING IN MIND THAT A FULL-SCALE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WILL REQUIRE ADEQUATE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES.

THAT THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES INVOLVE COMMUNITY GROUPS SUCH AS PARENTS IN CRISIS AND THE GREATER VANCOUVER CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SOCIETY IN PLANNING THE CAMPAIGN.

THAT SEXUAL ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN BE INCLUDED AS TOPICS OF INFORMATION IN SUCH A PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

THAT SUCH A PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN RECOGNIZE THAT CHILD ABUSE IS A PART OF THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF FAMILY VIOLENCE, AND THAT OTHER FORMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE, PARTICULARLY THE BATTERING OF A CHILD'S MOTHER, CONSTITUTE A FORM OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE EVEN IF THE CHILD IS NOT PHYSICALLY INVOLVED.

6. The Working Group surveyed the province regarding the need for a newsletter, and as a result of that survey established an Editorial Committee to produce the Child Abuse/Neglect Newsletter as a publication of the Task Force on Family Violence. To date there have been four issues circulated to a mailing list of 3,000 people in British Columbia (see recommendation page 23).
7. The Working Group researched and drafted a response to the White Paper on the proposed Family and Child Services Act which was submitted to the Children's Legislation Committee of the Ministry of Human Resources (see Appendix VI). The Task Force recommends:

THAT THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONCERNS OF THE TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF A COMPREHENSIVE GROUP OF PROFESSIONAL AND LAY PEOPLE FROM THE COMMUNITY AND THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE REGARDING THE WHITE PAPER BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

THAT ANY NEW LEGISLATION CONTAIN SANCTIONS SO THAT ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD ABUSE WHO FAIL TO REPORT THOSE INSTANCES TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.

8. The Working Group was particularly concerned that services already in place which facilitate early intervention receive continuing support and recognition for their part in preventing an even higher incidence of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force recommends:

THAT PROGRAMMES SUCH AS THE HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON CHILD ABUSE, PARENTAL STRESS LINE, CRISIS CENTRE AND MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES EMERGENCY SERVICES BE CONTINUED.

THAT SERVICES SUCH AS THE MOUNT PLEASANT FAMILY CENTRE AND DUNBAR FAMILY PLACE BE ASSURED OF CONTINUED FUNDING AND THAT SUCH SERVICES BE EXPANDED INTO OTHER NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

9. Finally, the Working Group identified gaps in services which require immediate action. The Task Force recommends:

THAT THERAPEUTIC RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT AND COUNSELLING, BE PROVIDED TO ABUSED CHILDREN, THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT AS CHILDREN, AND TO PARENTS WHO NEED TREATMENT IF THEY ARE TO CONTINUE EFFECTIVELY IN THEIR PARENTAL ROLE.

THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORT SERVICES TO SINGLE MOTHERS, INCLUDING RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND DAY CARE.

THAT THE NEW TREATMENT CENTRE TO BE OPERATED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND PARENT-CHILD THERAPY SOCIETY BE INCORPORATED, AFTER POSITIVE EVALUATION, INTO THE REGULAR SERVICES OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AFTER THE TERM OF FEDERAL FUNDING EXPIRES.

THAT THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES CONTINUE TO VIEW CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT AS A PRIORITY.

WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION

One of the major objectives of the Task Force was to increase public and professional awareness of the nature and extent of family violence, and to assist in the co-ordination of services and disciplines in identifying and meeting the needs of the victims of violence.

Work Undertaken

1. Family Violence Resource List

The first task of the Working Group was the compiling of a Family Violence resource list for the Lower Mainland. The list was printed in Summer 1977 and revised the following fall. A total distribution of 14,000 copies has been achieved in this period, including two special mailings, one by the B.C. Bar Association to its Lower Mainland members and the other by the B.C. Medical Association to family physicians, general surgeons, psychiatrists and pediatricians in the Lower Mainland. The resource list includes telephone numbers and a brief description of crisis lines, women's shelters, counselling and child abuse services. The list was made available to local offices of the Ministry of Human Resources and other agencies and services whose workers require such information.

2. Family Violence Workshops

A series of family violence workshops, organized in various centres in B.C., were designed to involve social service agency personnel, other related professionals and concerned citizens in exploring the problems of child abuse and wife battering, adapting available resources to meet the needs of violent families, and planning necessary new resources to fill identified service gaps.

Funds for five two-day workshops were obtained from the Secretary of State, Women's Programme and the Non-Medical Use of Drugs Directorate of Health and Welfare, Canada. Planned in conjunction with a local committee, these workshops incorporated regional and Vancouver-based resource people. They were held at the following locations in 1978:

Vernon	January 20 and 21
Prince George	April 6 and 7
Queen Charlotte Is.	June 12 and 13
Terrace	June 15 and 16
Nelson	September 12 and 13

Each workshop involved between 45 and 130 people, mostly professional or community people actively engaged in organizations and services related to family violence. Evaluation forms completed by participants served as a basis for a report written on the workshops by Diana Ellis and Jessie MacGregor (See Appendix VII). This report, which also summarizes evaluation forms completed at 3 one-day workshops held in the Lower Mainland, has proven useful to staff training and development personnel in both government and private agencies.

Apart from commenting on the content of the workshops and the most effective means of presenting information, participants responded to the problems of inter-agency communication, the creative use of available community resources and the development of necessary new ones, particularly Transition Houses. From their survey of the evaluation data, the authors conclude:

There is a need for a broader analysis of the socio-economic influences on the family. This would include a consideration of unemployment as it affects men and their relationship with their wife and children, and as it affects the possibility of economic independence for women, either singly or with their children. As well, we cannot talk about child abuse or wife battering without talking of the need for family support systems such as child care, child minding service; the harmful effects of sex role stereotyping of males and females; and the effects of the imposition of the nuclear family model as an "ideal" place for people to interact.

The fundamental dynamics and the reality of the changing family, the challenge to traditional sex roles, the role of children in our society, the children's rights movement, the economic malaise in Canada, notions of privacy of the family and community, the effects of socio-economic instability on men, women and children - all these points must be addressed. There must be articulated a workable and stimulating analysis and recognition of these changes. Care must be taken to sensitively but directly seek a model for challenging our own and each other's attitudes and values.

The Task Force recommends:

THAT WORKSHOPS ON THE TOPIC OF FAMILY VIOLENCE CONTINUE TO BE ORGANIZED THROUGHOUT B.C. AND BE PLANNED IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL GROUPS AND SERVICES.

THAT WOMEN'S STUDIES IN B.C.'S HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES BE EXTENDED AND THAT THESE COURSES INCLUDE TOPICS SUCH AS FAMILY VIOLENCE AND LEGAL RIGHTS OF MARRIAGE PARTNERS.

THAT AN INTERMINISTERIAL WORKSHOP ON FAMILY VIOLENCE BE UNDERTAKEN, MAKING USE OF THE PLANNING ON THAT TOPIC DONE TO DATE BY THE TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE, TO DRAW TOGETHER STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES, THE CORRECTIONS BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE VICTORIA AND VANCOUVER HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, THE RECREATION BRANCH AND THE B.C. POLICE ACADEMY.

### 3. Information Packets and Resource Kits

In order to provide a ready source of information on child abuse, a kit containing a catalogue of media materials, articles, bibliographies, pamphlets and guidelines was assembled. This kit, with the addition of articles and other information on the subject of wife battering, was used as the registration kit for Task Force workshops. Similarly, it was utilized by other agencies as a basic registration kit provided to participants attending a range of workshops and conferences which included family violence topics. In all, about 2,000 such kits, some provided free, most sold at cost (\$2), have been assembled and distributed. A major proportion of the material contained in the kit was contributed by the Child Abuse Team, Ministry of Human Resources.

### 4. Professional Continuing Education and Upgrading

A beginning has been made in the area of professional training in family violence concerns. One-day and half-day workshops have been conducted on request with such groups as recreation staff at community centres, City Health personnel, people who work with non-English speaking families, Family Court committees, Child Care inter-agency organizations and B.C. Corrections Family Court counsellors. Other Family Violence workshops are currently being planned for various locations in B.C., sponsored by services such as the Ministry of Human Resources, local hospitals and teachers organizations. However, the growing demand for skills, and information on family violence topics has not yet been met. In-service and community based education must continue. Further, we believe that core as well as in-service training should be reviewed to improve the content and amount of family violence material required of practitioners.

The Task Force recommends:

THAT EDUCATION IN FAMILY VIOLENCE BE INCLUDED IN THE IN-SERVICE DEVELOPMENT OF STAFF SKILLS AND IN BASIC PROFESSIONAL CURRICULUM.

THAT AGENCIES SUCH AS THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES, THE CORRECTIONS BRANCH, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS ENCOURAGE STAFF WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CONDUCTING PREVENTIVE PROGRAMMES SUCH AS SUPPORT GROUPS FOR MEN AND FOR WOMEN, THAT THIS ENCOURAGEMENT TAKE THE FORM OF TIME FOR TRAINING AND PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT, PAYMENT OF ANY REGISTRATION FEES AND RECOGNITION IN JOB EVALUATION.

While it is essential that doctors, nurses, teachers, probation officers, police members, recreational and day care workers all have an understanding of the prevalence, seriousness and nature of child abuse and wife battering, we believe it particularly important that Schools of Social Work give recognition to this problem in Social Work training.

The Task Force recommends:

THAT PROGRAMMES OF STUDIES DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM AREA OF VIOLENCE WITHIN THE FAMILY BE MADE AVAILABLE ON A REGULAR BASIS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK.

THAT THESE STUDIES INCLUDE COURSES IN HUMAN BEHAVIOUR AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL POLICY AND SERVICE MANAGEMENT, RESEARCH, SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE OR, AS A FIRST STEP, THAT THE TOPIC OF VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY BE SYSTEMATICALLY ADDRESSED IN ALL THESE COURSES.

THAT THESE STUDIES ALSO BE OFFERED IN CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND THAT RSW (REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKER) CREDITS BE GRANTED TO PARTICIPANTS IN THESE STUDIES.

THAT DIRECTED FIELD STUDIES AND FIELD WORK PLACEMENTS BE ARRANGED IN THE BSW AND MSW PROGRAMMES OF BOTH SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK TO PROVIDE INTRODUCTORY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT HAD ANY PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROBLEMS OF VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY.

THAT STUDENTS AND FACULTY BE ENCOURAGED IN BOTH SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK TO CONDUCT BASIC RESEARCH AND/OR ACTION ORIENTATED RESEARCH PROJECTS DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY.

##### 5. Child Abuse/Neglect Newsletter

The survey conducted by the Working Group indicated an interest in practice-related material on such topics as recognition of child abuse and neglect, intervention, assessment and counselling skills. The newsletter was designed to fill this information gap, be relevant to field practitioners and interested volunteers and provide a vehicle for the exchange of community based programme and service ideas.

Four issues of the newsletter have been published and distributed in the past year. Circulation is now about 3,000 and requests for current copies and back issues are received regularly. The newsletter has been edited by Task Force co-ordinator Flora MacLeod and Phoebe Brock-Dunbar of the Vancouver Ministry of Human Resources Child Abuse Team, with contributions from interested Task Force participants and members of the professional community. The Task Force recommends:

THAT PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT NEWSLETTER BE CONTINUED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

## 6. Production and Distribution of Media Materials

At the inception of the Task Force on Family Violence, films, video tapes and slide/sound programmes on Child Abuse/Neglect relevant to Canadian communities were few, but media material on the problems of battered women was entirely lacking. Task Force productions included the following:

- a) Two video tapes on the subject of battered women were produced under the auspices of United Way. Both A Sign of Affection? and Rule of Thumb are 1/2-hour black and white video tapes which survey attitudes and opinions about wife battering, and describe the situation of women who have experienced physical violence in their homes. The tapes are being used by a range of organizations in B.C. and the rest of Canada and have been an integral part of the workshops on family violence conducted in B.C. during the past two years by the Task Force and by other individuals and groups.
- b) A series of 10 half-hour programmes were recorded, designed for radio and classroom use on subjects such as legal aspects of family violence, sexual abuse of children and necessary resources. The tapes make use of material presented at the Family Violence workshops, supplemented by up-to-date information and commentary.
- c) A slide-tape programme in six languages besides English describing social and legal services available to families is now in production. The programme, called A Common Assault, is presented in three parts: emergency response to domestic crisis, Transition House, and Family Court. The programme is designed to provide immigrant families with basic social service information and to describe the operation of Family Court and core emergency services operating in the Lower Mainland. It should be of interest to communities outside the Lower Mainland in that it describes a model of emergency response which could be adapted to other B.C. towns and presents an example of interagency co-operation and effective referral in an emotionally difficult but typical family violence situation. Translated handouts for use by viewers will be available. Distribution is planned via MOSAIC, the Justice Institute of B.C. and the Legal Services Commission.

There is still a serious lack of media material on family violence topics. Particularly required are films suitable for use at public meetings on the topic of wife battering, services which can be developed such as support groups for battered women and for men who batter, and public and professional information on incest and sexual abuse of children. The Task Force recommends:

THAT FUNDING BODIES APPROACHED WITH PROPOSALS FOR PRODUCTION OF MEDIA RESOURCES ON FAMILY VIOLENCE RELATED TOPICS GIVE FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION TO SUCH REQUESTS, PARTICULARLY IF THE PROPOSALS HAVE THE ENDORSEMENT OF GROUPS AND AGENCIES ACTIVE IN THE FIELD SUCH AS THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES CHILD ABUSE TEAM, THE WOMEN'S RESEARCH CENTRE AND THE VANCOUVER STATUS OF WOMEN.

## 7. Publicity

The Task Force co-ordinator, members of Task Force working groups and committees and volunteers who operated Task Force sponsored programmes, were all actively involved in working to raise public awareness of the problems of child abuse and neglect and wife battering. At all provincial workshop locations interviews were recorded for local radio, television and newspapers. In Vancouver members appeared on talk shows, on television panels and were interviewed by newspapers and magazines. National interest in the work being carried out in B.C. was reflected in programmes run on CBC radio and television and in national magazines.

Task Force on Family Violence  
 Working Group and Committee  
Participants

The Task Force, its working groups and committees operated between May 1977 and January 1979. Asterisks indicate members who served as chairpersons of working groups and committees at some time during that period. Chairpersons for the Task Force meetings were assigned on a rotating basis.

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Ministry of Human Resources,  
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JILLIAN RIDINGTON,  
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GRACE KRAEMER,  
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AVERIL HARE,  
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Women's Programmes,  
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Fraser Valley.

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Nelson Community Services Centre,  
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MIKI HANSEN,  
Access,  
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BARBARA POWELL,  
Justice Council,  
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DIANE LUTHMERS,  
Women's Centre,  
Nelson.

SHIRLEY HOWDLE,  
Medical Doctor,  
Nelson.

GARY DEATHRIDGE,  
Psychologist,  
Cranbrook.

DAVID MILLER,  
Lawyer,  
Nelson.

ROY MARTIN,  
Nelson City Police.

RIC MCGRATH,  
Family Court Services,  
Nelson.

BILL ENGLISH,  
Ministry of Human Resources,  
Nelson.

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TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

Vancouver Status of Women  
Child Abuse Team, Vancouver  
General Hospital  
Women's Research Centre  
Justice Council Branch,  
Ministry of the Attorney  
General  
Child Abuse Team, Ministry  
of Human Resources  
B.C. Police Commission  
SPAR Committee, United Way

Family & Children's Court Services  
Vancouver Transition House  
Non Medical Use of Drugs Directorate  
Social Planning Department,  
City of Vancouver  
Family Law Section, B.C. Bar  
B.C. Transition House Communication  
& Support Network  
Vancouver Health Department  
School of Social Work, U.B.C.

CO-ORDINATOR

EDUCATION

Vancouver Status of Women  
Staff Training, Ministry of  
the Attorney General  
Child Abuse Team, Ministry  
of Human Resources  
Vancouver Peoples' Law School  
Consultant Women's Issues,  
Secretary of State  
Junior League  
Interlock  
Families In Stress, United  
Way, Burnaby  
Non Medical Use of Drugs  
Directorate  
Vancouver Health Department  
Vancouver Board of Parks  
and Recreation

WIFE BATTERING

Women's Research Centre  
Family Services of Greater  
Vancouver  
Y.W.C.A.  
Vancouver Transition House  
SPAR Committee, United Way  
Social Planning Department,  
City of Vancouver  
B.C. Transition House  
Communication & Support  
Network  
Families In Stress, United  
Way, Burnaby  
School of Social Work, U.B.C.

CHILD ABUSE

Richmond School Board  
Child Abuse Team, Ministry  
of Human Resources  
Child Abuse Team, Vancouver  
General Hospital  
B.C. Federation of Foster  
Parents Association  
West Health Unit, Vancouver  
Health Department  
Justice Council Branch,  
Ministry of the Attorney General  
Junior League  
Taking Responsible Action For  
Children & Youth (T.R.A.C.Y.)  
Child Abuse Prevention Society  
Parents In Crisis  
Centre for Developmental Medicine

LEGAL ISSUES

Vancouver Community Legal  
Assistance Society  
Family Law Section,  
B.C. Bar  
Family & Children's Court  
Services  
Justice Council Branch,  
Ministry of the Attorney  
General  
Child Abuse Team, Ministry  
of Human Resources

SUPPORT GROUPS FOR MEN

Family & Children's Services,  
Ministry of Human Resources  
Unitarian Family Life Church  
Joyce Centre, Ministry of  
Human Resources  
Family Services of Greater  
Vancouver  
Vancouver Transition House  
Post Partum Counselling  
School of Social Work, U.B.C.  
B.C. Transition House Communi-  
cation & Support Network

SUPPORT GROUPS FOR WOMEN

Women's Research Centre  
SPAR Committee, United Way  
Vancouver Status of Women  
Post Partum Counselling  
Family Services of Greater  
Vancouver  
Y.W.C.A.  
Vancouver Transition House  
Ministry of Human Resources  
School of Social Work, U.B.C.

IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Vancouver Transition House  
Y.W.C.A.  
Women's Research Centre  
Legal Aid Society  
Multi-Lingual Orientation  
Services Association For  
Immigrant Communities  
(M.O.S.I.A.C.)  
SPAR Committee, United Way  
Social Planning Department,  
City of Vancouver

REPORT TO THE TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE  
on the  
PILOT PROJECT FOR A WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP PROGRAM

by Gillian Walker

February 1979

I. INTRODUCTION

In December of 1977 the Working Group on Wife Battering of the Task Force on Family Violence (United Way) invited me to set up support groups for women in transition from abusive situations or in relationships in which violence occurs. Though not able to start such a group myself because of a full-time job commitment, I volunteered to act as training consultant to other women already working or interested in working with the issue. This possibility was approved at the January Task Force meeting. It was agreed that I prepare such a program and that an administrative group representing concerned agencies should act as liaison between the training program and the Task Force. This function was taken up by the Task Force Working Group on Wife Battering, which included members of the Ministry of Human Resources, Transition House, Y.W.C.A., Women's Research Centre, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, and Vancouver Status of Women.

Following are the grounding assumptions on which the program was based, the aims of the program, the original training and service plan, and the history of the actual training and service to date.

II. GROUNDING ASSUMPTIONS: GROUPS FOR WOMEN WHO ARE BEATEN

1. Assumptions about Violence and the Family:

1. Violence is not an acceptable form of family interaction.
2. It is men who beat women. There appear to be exceptions, but men in danger or in abusive situations have the economic option of leaving, which is less available to women.
3. A woman does not deserve to be beaten, no matter what she does. Nobody deserves beating, ever.
4. There are very real pressures, not only ON the family but IN the family as a result of what "the family" has come to mean and is expected to do in our current society. These pressures are enforced by the institutions which make up our system in such a way that "the family" can become a trap, especially for women and more especially for women with children. The dimensions of the trap are seldom visible when a family is not in difficulties but become apparent when family relations break down. We need to understand the demands and expectations which society makes on the family and how these are sanctioned by the law, social assistance policies, police action, employment and housing situations, and so on. These aspects are as much a reality as the internalized feelings and experiences of the individuals concerned.

5. Women stay in abusive situations for a number of reasons. So far it is apparent that:
    - i) they do not perceive the situation as avoidable or remediable;
    - ii) they do not see any real alternatives outside the family;
    - iii) there are very few alternatives and the institutions of society are not set up to provide alternatives but to reinforce the family as such. (This includes many counselling and therapy services.)
  6. There are presently fewer than 20 per cent (8% U.S.) "traditional" families in Canada, i.e., father, breadwinner; mother, homemaker; and two children. In offering support and assistance to women in or leaving abusive situations we are not seeking to break up the family but to maintain the part of the family which is a viable unit, i.e., the mother and the children. A man who beats or brutalizes his wife and/or children is not a viable part of a family unit until such time as he stops.
2. Assumptions about the Purpose and Function of Women's Support Groups:
1. We do not as yet know much about wife beating and family violence in general. We know a little more about the effects than we do about the causes. The purpose of the women's support groups is to offer help and support first and foremost, and through experience to begin to gain an understanding of the phenomenon. Models based on finding out what happens and what helps have been effective in other areas (e.g., Post-Partum Counselling, Parents-in-Crisis), and have eventually built up a picture of the situation which at least indicates some of the contributing factors. Working in this manner will hopefully allow both amelioration of actual situations and development of ideas and information from which to advocate change in the social system.
  2. We assume that women who are physically and/or emotionally involved in abusive situations can both receive and give help in the form of support, understanding and information sharing at a practical level.
  3. We have begun to identify the areas in which to start offering help; sharing experiences reduces isolation and feelings of individual failure and inadequacy. Women experience shame, low self esteem and a loss of any sense of autonomy. They also live in fear for themselves and their children. They experience guilt about the situation and about abusing their children or seeing the children exposed to violence and being helpless to protect them.

These areas need to be examined and verified and ways of dealing with them developed.
  4. Women do not want to be beaten nor do they like it. Sometimes they take what power they can by being hard-done-by or righteously indignant when the husband is remorseful, but this is not the same thing as "masochism".
  5. Identifying and working on ways in which women buy into, cooperate with, or lack awareness of the nature of the situation and their

options is not the same as seeing them as masochistic, provocative, or even as precipitating violence during an interaction. Any suggestions of "blaming the victim" will make us yet another oppressive force. If we do not keep the broader understanding of "the family" in society as a constant reference point (a form of consciousness raising for all concerned) we are in danger of doing more harm than good.

6. We assume that what we are seeing in the personal behaviour and experience of women who have or are being beaten is the RESULT of the beatings, not the CAUSE. The cause lies elsewhere and not merely in the personalities and beliefs of the individuals concerned. There may be need to go beyond support for actual in-depth therapy to deal with the results for some; this will have to be explored.
7. We cannot ask or expect women to remain with or return to men who beat them and endanger their lives until we can offer them REAL protection and effective help. Neither the women's nor the men's groups can offer either at this time, if ever. Therefore, the concern of the women's support groups is the safety and welfare of the women involved, not the rehabilitation of their husbands.
8. If it becomes evident that those women whose men are in the men's group also want a group of their own, then we would want to integrate this into our program, but it is not the main purpose of the women's groups to provide support for women whose men are in treatment.

### III. AIMS OF THE PROGRAM

- To provide a training program for women in the community who are either already employed by existing agencies and services or who wish to develop services and find ways of working with women, based on knowledge, experience and understanding drawn from women themselves both as facilitators and participants.
- Provide support groups as a service for women with particular needs.
- To provide knowledge for women themselves, for professionals and for the community at large of:
  - (a) the phenomenon of wife beating
  - (b) needs of those in the situation
  - (c) ways to help

### IV. ORIGINAL OUTLINE OF STAFF AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

#### I. Function of the Support Group Program Coordinator

- i) To run training groups for a maximum of six women at a time, 8 - 12 weeks, depending on prior experience.
- ii) To coordinate and participate in ongoing facilitators' groups which will continue to meet after the training period.

- iii) To collect information, keep records and develop models for the support groups to promote the growth in knowledge of the problems, needs and help given.
- iv) To provide resource information for facilitators and community.
- v) To act as liaison with sponsoring agency and to provide educational information to that agency and the community at large.

Duties would include the conducting of at least 3 training or facilitator support groups per week, interviewing and screening prospective facilitators, acting as a reference source for support groups, providing community education, keeping records and developing written materials on information received, and gaining and transmitting information on resources, legalities, etc.

This would be a full time job, since each facilitator group generates at least three support groups. In a short time the coordinator could be responsible for a program involving a dozen support groups in the community, plus the facilitator support groups.

2. Services Required to Start and Continue the Support Group Program:

- i) Meeting places for both training/facilitators groups and for support groups where necessary.
- ii) Office space, supplies and materials, xerox, record keeping facilities and telephone.
- iii) Recognition of participation for facilitators who will need to commit a minimum of six hours per week.
  - (a) Women already in agencies need to be seconded if not paid for group time as part of their jobs.
  - (b) Women outside agencies need expenses and stipend for groups and support services.
- iv) Women as participants need:
  - (a) Places to meet
  - (b) No fee to pay
  - (c) Support with babysitting and travel expenses
  - (d) Opportunity to become facilitators themselves at a later date.
- v) Initial budget requirements would include:
  - (a) Salary for full time coordinator
  - (b) Office services
  - (c) Stipend for group facilitators and co-trainer (approx. six hours per week)
  - (d) Babysitting and transport costs for participants
  - (e) Overhead for meeting spaces.

## V. HISTORY OF TRAINING AND SERVICES TO DATE

### I. Planning

After consultation with Jim McKenzie who was involved in conducting groups for men who batter, and in conjunction with Joann Robertson, a colleague with whom I had worked at Post-Partum Counselling, the following program was drawn up and implemented. Initially there were three phases envisaged:

- i) Recruitment and training of a core group of leaders
- ii) Setting up of support groups in the community
- iii) Ongoing meetings for the leaders both for their own personal support and for learning about the phenomenon and the helping process.

The coordinator's role was one of liaison with the Task Force, recruitment and training of leaders and ongoing membership, resource person, and consultant in the leader's group. This role has been shared by Joann and myself.

The following criteria were used in the recruiting of women for the training program:

- i) Maturity and life experience, not necessarily as battered wives, but in ongoing relationships;
- ii) Not currently in crisis;
- iii) Some experience in working in or with groups;
- iv) The ability and willingness to commit 4 to 6 hours per week to the program;
- v) A pro-women perspective.

### 2. Implementation:

In February and March 1978, nine women were recruited for the initial training session and met on a weekly basis (10 two-hour sessions) from mid-March to June of that year.

They were:

1 worker and 2 student placements: ISHTAR Transition House,  
Fraser Valley

2 workers: North Shore Women's Centre

2 workers: Mount Pleasant Family Centre (one a native Indian)

1 part-time worker from the Ministry of Human Resources

1 worker: Parents in Crisis, a self-help group for parents who abuse or fear abusing their children. This woman subsequently dropped out to take up a new full-time job, but the group remained at nine because another student on summer placement at ISHTAR took her place.

Though it was not our original intention, all but one of these women were members of agencies or services through which they hoped to recruit and run their support groups. Thus we were able to proceed without the necessity of finding locations, babysitting and the other support services that ordinarily would be required.

We found it preferable to work in pairs in facilitating support groups. This left the Ministry of Human Resources worker without a co-leader and without a setting in which to start a group, as the office in which she works did not support her involvement in this program. She continued to attend the leaders' groups, deal with individual women who contacted her through her MHR position, and eventually worked with a social work student to form a group in the Lower Mainland.

### 3. Training

The three somewhat arbitrarily defined areas on which the training focused were:

- i) theoretical approaches to group work skills;
- ii) theoretical and practical sharing of knowledge, information and experience on women who are beaten, i.e., single parenting, separation, fear, living alone, living on welfare, loneliness;
- iii) practical approaches as women, for women, to providing leadership and information on resources and agencies with which women have to deal, legal issues, police liaison, etc.

We initially envisaged a six-week training period with the leaders' group itself becoming a working/support group experience for the women involved. It actually took ten weeks to achieve this rather complex goal, accomplished largely through the sharing of information, feelings, analysis of social structures which influence experience and extensive role-playing. We hoped that the training group itself would provide a model for the future support groups.

### 4. Progress to Date:

The training groups culminated in June 1978, but members kept in touch over the summer months. So far four groups have been run at ISHTAR Transition House which has a built-in recruitment base of women who are staying in or passing through the facility. The leaders' group designed small handbills for distribution in locations where groups will be operating. It is hoped that the North Shore Women's Centre and other agencies in the Lower Mainland will have groups going in the immediate future. The leaders' group continues to meet to maintain its support and learning function.

### 5. Three Sample Handbills/Posters

Following are the contents of 3 handbills which may be adapted for use by agencies or groups planning a support group service. The first

was designed by the facilitators group described in this report and the other two originated with the Toronto-based Support Service for Assaulted Women.

---

" DOES YOUR HUSBAND OR BOYFRIEND

- Slap you around?
- Hit you? Sometimes? Often?
- Put you down?
- Make you feel useless and stupid?
- Make it hard for you to get out of the house?
- Not allow you to have your own friends?

ARE YOU

- Frightened of him?
- Afraid for your children?
- In need of friendship and support?
- Feeling alone? Hopeless? Helpless?

If you are in this kind of situation or, if you have recently left this kind of situation and are trying to make it on your own or with your children:

CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ and ask for \_\_\_\_\_

She will tell you how and where to:

- Meet others who share and understand the same kind of experiences.
- Get support and ideas about how to deal with your situation.
- Find out how to help yourself with the help of others.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE ALONE!"

---

" IF YOUR HUSBAND OR BOYFRIEND HITS YOU ... YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT:

- YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE ... It happens to many women
  - YOU DO NOT CAUSE THE BEATINGS ... men beat their wives because they are permitted to and nobody stops them.
  - WIFE-BEATING IS NOT A SICKNESS ... "He does it because he's sick" is a myth. An unhappy childhood or emotional problem does not give anyone the right to beat his wife ... It's his responsibility to seek help for his emotional difficulties.
  - YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT ... assault is illegal and grounds for divorce.
  - LEAVING IS NOT DESERTION ... the courts call it constructive desertion; you can still get financial support and custody of your children.
  - IF IT HAS HAPPENED MORE THAN ONCE ... It will happen again.
-

" IF YOU ARE BEATEN ... TAKE SOME ACTION

- SEEK LEGAL ADVICE ... do not rely on what your husband tells you.
  - DO NOT KEEP IT A SECRET ... tell your doctor or hospital emergency staff the truth. Tell a neighbour or a friend. If they do not believe you, contact a women's centre or shelter.
  - TRY TO KEEP OFF PILLS OR ALCOHOL ... you need to be able to think clearly.
  - If you want custody of your children, IF YOU LEAVE, TAKE YOUR CHILDREN WITH YOU ... If you don't take the children you may have difficulty getting interim custody. Final custody comes after one year, at the least, and the parent with the children has the advantage. "
- 

VI. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We learned several things from the pilot project. With regard to the actual training group, which is ongoing to date, we felt that the process would have been more effective if we had initially focused on our own views, assumptions and feelings about violence toward women and children. This would have facilitated a sense of group cohesion on which to base later group work skills.

It was also apparent that we were dealing with two different areas of need. Originally we had envisaged support groups for women who had been through the Transition process and were making new lives for themselves in the community. As we made more contacts with women who were still in violent situations, we hoped that something could be done to help them and that support groups would possibly be part of the solution. Many of the original assumptions outlined in this report were based on this hope. Eventually it became clear that at this point either support groups do not meet these women's needs or we have not yet learned how to do so in support groups. No one working with the problem has yet found a sure way, short of separation, to stop violence within a relationship. A number of women stated clearly that they needed individual help and were not able to deal with hearing the problems of other women.

An additional intervention model needs to be developed. Social service agencies need to take more responsibility for this aspect. Staff development and in-service training programs of the kind run by the Task Force on Family Violence will be needed to acquaint them with the issue and pioneer ways to deal with it.

Our experience to date indicates that women who are currently in violent situations are not ready or able to use the kind of help offered by support groups. Not all of our assumptions have been borne out. These women need protection and practical intervention for themselves, their children and their partners where possible.

Support groups do, however, appear to be effective for women who have already left violent homes. They offer help with daily difficulties and loneliness and provide a place where the ongoing physical and emotional trauma of having been beaten can be dealt with. The kind of understanding which comes out of these group experiences will, hopefully, help to break the cycle of violent relationships which is often a feature of women's lives.

Recommendations:

The support groups are a much needed service and should proceed independently of the concomitant need for a men's group service. The aims and content of the women's groups should be regarded as of a different nature. Based on our experience in the pilot project we recommend that the Task Force strongly pursue funding for a program such as that described in this report. This would require:

1. A full-time paid coordinator, separate from the men's program.
2. Proper financial recognition for the time and skills of the group leaders.
3. Financial support for transportation and child care for the women who attend the support groups.

INTERIM HOUSING FOR BATTERED WIVES

November 1978

Excerpts from a Proposal by the Vancouver Y.W.C.A.

Definition of the Program

The Y.W.C.A. is proposing a three-year demonstration program to provide Interim Housing for battered wives. The program would take women from the Vancouver Transition House and other locations where battered women have sought temporary protection in a crisis. This "Interim Housing" would provide an extension of approximately three months time away from the battering situation. It would give women a chance to examine their options whether it be a chance to return home under different circumstances or to establish a separate household. There would be time to make a plan and begin to take the action needed to reach an alternative to being battered.

This proposal is built around the rental of a large house with six self-contained suites plus a seventh small bachelor suite for a live-in custodial person. Two staff and office personnel would be responsible for selecting residents, helping them develop plans and take action, and following up on the residents after they move out.

In addition to housing six families at a time, the Y.W.C.A. sees this facility as a centre where battered wives, even though not housed there, might use the counselling and referral services of the staff.

Background

Since its inception the Y.W.C.A., both worldwide and in Vancouver, has been concerned with housing women with various needs. In Vancouver this concern has taken shape through the operation of a 225-bed Residence-Hotel and a Housing Registry Service which arranges for housing in the community. For the past ten years, until June 1978, the Y.W.C.A. also co-ordinated a program for housing single parents.

Following the 1977 Symposium in Vancouver on Family Violence the Y.W.C.A. Board of Directors asked the volunteers and staff in the Housing Department to define a role which the Y.W. could take in dealing with Transition Houses. Although more beds were needed for crisis housing, a greater need spelled out was a "Second Stage Transition House" - a place where women could stay long enough to renew their self-esteem and make a plan for the future. This idea was discussed and received support at a meeting of fifteen community agencies in February 1978.

The proposed program also has the endorsement of the United Way Task Force on Family Violence and the Social Planning and Research Committee of United Way of the Lower Mainland.

### Why is this Program Needed?

This Interim House program would not duplicate existing services. It would be a new service! There are emergency shelters where battered women can be housed at the time of a crisis, but these are short-term arrangements. This situation means many women return home to a battering husband. The long-term result of this situation will be to feed more women and children into medical care facilities in the province.

There needs to be an Interim House where women can stay long enough to realize there are other options to being battered - that it does not have to be a way of life. When the husband is remorseful and promises it will not happen again, what are the rehabilitative options open to a family so there is some action other than hoping, that will make the husband's statement a reality.

Battered women need more than a safe environment. They need a rehabilitation plan which will examine the influence their expectations make in contributing to the battering. In the absence of such a program the men continue to harass and assault their families. The women continue to hold self-degrading beliefs which immobilize them, and the violence and the acceptance of it being a necessary part of life is passed on to another generation. A study last year by United Way indicated that between 4,000 and 5,000 women are beaten to the point of serious injury each year in the Lower Mainland alone.

### How will the Program be Carried Out?

The Y.W.C.A. plans to rent a multiple family dwelling consisting of six self-contained units - approximately 16 beds. Fifty-one mothers and children could be housed during a year in 3-month periods.

The "carrying out" of this program is seen not only as a provision of a housing and counselling service, but as an attempt to develop a network of community services and resources which each woman can continue to use after she moves out. Although there will be staff who can carry the primary responsibility for seeing that women develop plans and take action, they may not be the primary counsellors.

If it seems more appropriate to re-establish former connections and support services which a woman has had in the past this will be done. If completely new resources are a better idea, contact with these will be arranged. One of the primary jobs of the Interim House staff will be to help the women apply the ideas and put suggestions into practice during their stay at the House.

At the core of all contacts will be an attempt to help each woman understand the complex mythology about wife-beating. The opportunity to be in touch and live close to other battered wives will help the women see battering not only as a personal dilemma but as a larger social problem that affects many women. A recent U.S. study on battered women has estimated that as many as one-half the wives in the country are physically abused by their husbands.

The Y.W.C.A. is aware of the plans being made by Family Services of Greater Vancouver to train conveners of support groups for both women and men. The staff of Interim House would use these resources and make referrals to these groups both during and following a woman's stay in the House.

In addition to providing help to the residents of Interim House the staff would try to provide some alternate referrals for applicants who could not be accepted because of limited occupancy.

#### INTERIM HOUSE - THE STAFF

##### Manager-Counsellor (Responsible to Director of Housing)

- Selects and supervises staff.
- Interviews applicants for the House.
- Determines admissions.
- Works out contract with each family.
- Evaluates progress in relation to contract agreements.
- Delegates follow-up or on-going work to Assistant or volunteers.
- Arranges for and carries out some volunteer recruitment, training and supervision.
- Responsible for Public Education.
- Carries main responsibility for community co-ordination with groups concerned with family violence and wife battering.
- Supervises maintenance of essential records and statistics.
- In conjunction with Director of Housing, is responsible for yearly Budget.
- Controls expenditures.
- Supervises evaluation and follow-up of residents and evaluation of entire program.

##### Assistant (Responsible to Manager-Counsellor)

1. Counsels residents and other battered wives who inquire about help but who may not be residents.
2. Assumes delegated responsibility for work with volunteers who work with residents.
3. Helps with or arranges for:
  - child care.
  - recreation for older children.
  - job opportunities search for residents.
  - group projects and social activities.

Live-in Staff  
(Responsible to Manager-Counsellor)

- Takes complaints from residents about malfunctioning of major utilities in the suites.
- Arranges for repair of the utilities.
- Carries out general cleaning which is not inside suites.
- Carries out or arranges for cleaning of suites when residents change.
- Is sensitive to the living problems going on - listens and shares observations with manager.

Office Staff  
(Responsible to Manager-Counsellor)

- Acts as a central communication centre for the house residents, staff and community re Interim House and Interim Housing.
- Trains and supervises volunteers assigned to office duty.
- Carries out clerical duties related to the program.

How Much will it Cost?

Apart from the cost of the facility (provided by the provincial government), operating expenses including counselling, referral, child care and support services, will be about \$62,000 a year. Normal ongoing expenses encountered by a family such as rent, food, clothing and medical costs are not included. These expenses will be the responsibility of each family unit. A much higher expenditure would be necessary to provide "treatment services" for the same families.

The total cost of residential psychiatric care for two battered women would about equal the cost of the total program, which provides housing for 51 women and children and counselling referral for another 300 battered women.

A detailed budget and more information can be obtained from:

Director,  
Interim House,  
Vancouver Y.W.C.A.,  
580 Burrard Street,  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6C 2K9

(683-2531)

REPORTS TO THE UNITED WAY TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCESUPPORT GROUPS FOR MEN WHO BATTER WOMEN

February 1979

I. ESTABLISHING GROUPS FOR MEN WHO USE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

by H. D. James McKenzie, R.S.W.

In March 1977 a Symposium on Family Violence was held under the aegis of the United Way of Greater Vancouver. One of the recommendations made at the Symposium was that some form of treatment group be made available for men who batter women. It was recognized that in a battering situation one of two events are common. Firstly, the couple could at some time become reconciled. Secondly, if no reconciliation occurs, the man in all probability will eventually commence a new relationship. In either case the potential for violence by the man can remain high unless some form of intervention takes place.

The United Way Task Force on Family Violence, organized to implement the recommendations of the Symposium, worked to develop a programme which was known as Support Groups for Men who Batter. The following describes steps taken in the establishment of this programme. Included are some suggestions on possible variations. Because each community will have different needs and different resources available, experimentation will be necessary. Those of us involved in the Vancouver programme recognize that we are still at the learning and experimental stage.

1. Find a reputable agency or government department to sponsor the programme. Preferably this sponsoring body will provide funds to pay for group leaders, consultants, etc.
2. Develop a working committee to do planning, co-ordination, public relations. Get a good cross-section of agencies and government departments involved. In Vancouver, this function was met by a Task Force on Family Violence working group.
3. Utilize staff from local refuges for battered women, involving them from the very start of the planning process. They can provide credibility to the programme with other women's groups, give referrals, help the group leaders tune into the dynamics of the violent man's relationship to his partner. Recognize that you may have to "agree to disagree" about philosophy and treatment objectives but that co-operation can occur.
4. Select your group leaders on the basis of their having had actual group leading experience (It takes a long time to train people to do group work if they have had no prior background. Distinguish between people who have been in groups as members rather than as leaders. Our preference is for persons with experience in leading verbal groups rather than experiential groups.). If you are going to use co-leaders ensure that they have worked together before, or that they are completely clear with each other about treatment methods and objectives. Currently the Vancouver groups are using male workers. A female/male co-leader team would be an interesting experiment to try.

5. Obtain a consultant. The consultant is to provide objectivity and support to the group leaders, work with the leaders on initial "tuning-in" to group members (i.e., what anxieties, resentment the men might be carrying, working to help leaders reach for negative areas in the men and so forth). Other functions of the consultant are listed below in 6. and 8.

[At this point, I wish to acknowledge our consultant, Larry Shulman, Professor, School of Social Work, University of British Columbia. Dr. Shulman indicated many of the areas which have to be dealt with prior to any programme starting and provided his skills and empathy to the group leaders. A useful resource book which describes much of the model used in the first Vancouver group is his book, A Casebook of Social Work with Groups: The Mediating Model, by L. Shulman, New York, 1968, Council on Social Work Education.]

6. Establish what the treatment goals of the programme are to be.
7. Designate one person as the contact for referring agencies or individual self-referrals.
8. Let the various agencies in your community know who you are, what you are going to be doing and what clients would be appropriate referrals. Make clear what your contract is to be, i.e., that the group will be concerned only with stopping violence within a relationship. Issues affecting group members such as unemployment or legal problems will be talked about in so far as they affect behaviour. However, in most communities there are generally specific agencies to deal with these issues in more effective ways. In other words, your contract is to deal only with therapeutic issues; you will not be taking sole responsibility for every aspect of the men's lives. The consultant to the first Vancouver group conducted a workshop for over sixty workers representing a cross-section of services. Many of these workers had expressed concern over their ability to discuss family violence with their clients and to make difficult referrals. The aim of the workshop was to help them feel more comfortable in talking about this problem.
9. The group leader(s) will probably be persons who are engaged in other full-time employment. Establish a contract with their employing agency so that they can utilize a percentage of their time to help the programme in its early stages and get paid for their group time. Consider having a fully-funded programme established as soon as possible.

### Suggestions for the operation of the groups

1. We have been interviewing the men as they are referred to us. In this way group leaders get a sense of who they will be working with and vice-versa. This procedure seems to be very effective because the men will usually bring out reservations and concerns more readily in the "one-to-one" than they would in a group.
2. During the interview, and when the group meets in its first session, form a contract with them about the group's purpose and the leader's role. [See, A Casebook of Social Work with Groups: The Mediating Model, cited in (5) above, re: contracts.]
3. The first two meetings will probably be spent mostly on the men identifying with each other. Many of the men we have seen have stated that they wanted to talk with somebody about these problems but had not found the opportunity. When they get into a group with each other it is a very exciting and reassuring experience to find that others have the same problems and want to do something about them.
4. Because of the identification and ventilation process indicated above, we found it advisable to allow no new members into the group after the second session. Otherwise you spend another meeting going back over the same stories.
5. The groups in Vancouver meet once a week for ten weeks, with a follow-up period agreed upon by the group members. Average time for each session has been one and one-half to two hours.

### Other considerations

1. In terms of an overall treatment programme an ideal combination might consist of the man attending a group by himself, the woman being involved in a support group for herself, the couple being brought together at some point for conjoint counselling to either aid reconciliation or to facilitate a permanent separation.
2. It probably will be necessary to have persons with highly developed sensitivity and skills to work with groups composed of particular ethnic or racial groups. Ideally the worker might be from the particular group or else have been accepted as being understanding of their background.
3. An area which has caused debate is the issue of voluntary vs. involuntary attendance at the groups. Several men who participated in the Vancouver groups were referred by Family Court workers with apparent success. However, there are questions about the ethics of involuntary attendance, the chances of success for a group composed entirely of court referrals, attendance as a condition of probation or pre-sentencing and so forth. (Interestingly it has been workers in the judicial system who have raised the most concern around these issues.) Obviously these are real issues which each community will have to deal with.

## II. REPORT TO THE TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

by H. D. James McKenzie, R.S.W.

Men's Support Groups were developed in response to a recommendation made at the Symposium on Family Violence in March of 1977. The recommendation concerned the establishing of some form of group help which would be available for men who had battered their wives.

The committee which was formed to act on this recommendation immediately became aware of several problem areas as well as possible solutions to these problems. One problem was that there was no material available on working with these men in a therapeutic or self-help model. This problem was alleviated by the assistance of Professor Larry Shulman with regard to small group skills, and by the information and perceptions of several workers from the Vancouver Transition House and Ishtar Transition House, as well as a number of women who had been in abusive relationships.

A second problem was, would men who had battered come forward voluntarily to seek some form of help for themselves? Related to this was the question of whether workers who were involved in dealing with wife-abuse cases would refer to and/or utilize the groups. In an effort to resolve these questions, workshops and presentations to professional workers and media presentations were made so that the general aims and availability of the groups were made known. This information sharing has been ongoing until the present time.

In December of 1977 the first group started meeting. Since that time approximately thirty men have been involved with the groups, and a number of men have been seen outside of the groups in either one-to-one situations or with their wives. In addition, both myself and my colleague Dale Trimble, who conducted several of the groups, have received numerous telephone enquiries which never reached the interview stage.

Given the above I believe that at this point in time the Men's Support Groups have shown three things. Firstly, that some men who have battered will come to a group for help. Secondly, some men who would not enter a group would be amenable to one-to-one or conjoint counselling. Thirdly, from the number of referrals it is clear that many workers from differing Ministries and private agencies are carrying cases in which wife abuse is a factor, and would refer these cases.

However, it is also apparent that this project has had many limitations and that many problematic areas remain. Rather than exhaustively listing all the problem areas I would prefer to discuss one major limitation and the effect it has had.

In my view, the major problem has been that the project has been produced on a part-time basis. Because neither myself nor Dale Trimble has been able to devote a sufficient amount of time to the groups, a number of deficiencies are present, i.e., insufficient evaluation, limited number of men reached. Since both myself and Mr. Trimble work at other jobs these deficiencies cannot be made up by ourselves.

I feel that the limitations of time and the non-existence of full-time ancillary services such as administration, community information and education, and evaluation will preclude any possibility of the project reaching true serviceability. I do not mean to detract from what has been accomplished to this point but wish to indicate the limitations of any project which operates on a part-time basis.

In conjunction with these points I would like to make some comments on the Women's Support Groups. These groups, for women who have been battered by their husbands, I believe are absolutely essential. The physical and emotional trauma of being abused will not necessarily diminish merely through the passage of time. In my opinion as a social worker, the emotional and psychological trauma of being physically assaulted will persist in varying degrees for many years unless some form of support and assistance is available.

Further, I believe the Women's Support Groups should be separate from and at least equal in importance to the Men's Support Groups. These provisos are included because I feel that the abused women will form a potentially larger population who will seek help than will the men. This plus the fact that the tasks of the groups are, in the main, different, make me view them as being very distinct from each other.

I would like to suggest that the United Way Task Force on Family Violence, in these its final days, strongly pursue funding which will lead to the establishment of full-time groups for both men and women who are trapped in either being violent or being the recipients, as are the women, of violence.

### III. REPORT TO THE TASK FORCE ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

by Dale Trimble, MA (Psych)

My colleague, Jim McKenzie, has already summarized the history of the groups and some of the problems in developing this service. For that reason I will not repeat the points Jim has raised, as I support them myself. What I would like to do is indicate some of the time which has been necessary to develop this service to the point at which it is now, and what immediate work will be needed to continue.

I began working with the Task Force and these groups in October 1977. Since that time I have donated over 250 hours of my time (a conservative estimate I am sure) to this service. This time can be broken down further into four areas.

- I. Training. As one of a group of five men, I was involved in preparatory training and group supervision under the direction of Dr. Larry Shulman. 30 hours
- II. Group work. This includes the actual group time, individual intake, group preparation and de-briefing. 100 hours
- III. Outreach. This includes media presentations (radio, TV and newspaper and magazine interviews) and talks and workshops given to various agencies and to the public. 70 hours
- IV. Funding. This includes committee work, writing grant applications, gathering data, soliciting support, etc. 50 hours

The above listing does not include time given by the many others who have contributed to the development of the support groups for men, especially group leaders Jim McKenzie, Hans Froese, and Don Dutton.

Funding must be found for full-time staff for training leaders, running the groups and determining their effectiveness. The work of building public awareness should continue. Clearly it is not appropriate that this important service which receives referrals from all the major ministries of government should continue on a part-time, volunteer basis.

When I complete the group I am leading there will have been five separate Men's Support Groups in Vancouver. In addition, Jim has seen several men, individually and with their partners, who did not enter a men's group. The groups have averaged 5 in size, and have lasted for 6 to 10 weeks, meeting on a weekly basis for 2 to 3 hours each week.

At this point a follow-up study is needed to more accurately determine whether or not those men who attended the groups did indeed stop using violence with their partners. It must be acknowledged at this point that we do not actually know if group counselling (and if so what form of group work) is the most effective form of intervention for the men in a wife-abuse situation. This is a major reason why funding to continue to offer and test this service is imperative. If the appreciative response of the men who have attended the groups and the enthusiastic interest of professional groups for improved knowledge and skill in helping wife-abusers is any indication, then we are most certainly on the right track.

In conclusion, I would like to comment on what I see as an underlying problem in developing this service. To offer men, especially violent men, support in exploring their fears, needs and destructive use of force, whether physical or psychological, is to challenge in some basic way what we have as a culture accepted as a definition of masculinity. When that definition reaches the extreme of spousal violence we have either tried to ignore it, if they were our neighbours or possibly ostracize it through the court system where the roots of violence are never dealt with. To provide a supportive service for violent men is to assume that men can have real human needs for which the violence is a defense. Whether this project receives funding may be intrinsically dependent on whether or not we as a society are ready to support men in the work of self-knowledge.

## APPENDIX VI

### A RESPONSE TO J.V. BELKNAP, CHILDREN'S LEGISLATION COMMITTEE, FROM THE UNITED WAY OF THE LOWER MAINLAND, REGARDING THE WHITE PAPER, THE PROPOSED FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICES ACT

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This statement is based on the continuing research interest of the Social Planning and Research Committee of the United Way in family and children's services, the recommendations of the Symposium on Family Violence, and the work of the Task Force on Family Violence.

The Protection of Children Act in current use, drafted in 1901, is aimed only at protecting children from certain extreme situations. The best interests of the child are not always met, and often the family disintegrates.

We commend the government for proposing to change this archaic piece of legislation. We are dismayed, however, that the proposed Family and Child Services Act remains crisis-oriented rather than prevention-oriented.

Children need and deserve more than protection. At the present time in British Columbia, children have no rights of their own. They are, in the eyes of the law, possessions of their parents or guardians. Families need and deserve assistance and support in providing a high standard of care to their children.

We believe good child welfare legislation should:

1. Provide a clear statement on the rights of children and contain adequate legal safeguards for the protection of these rights.
2. Ensure that the government provides for advocacy for all children.
3. Ensure the provision of services which:
  - a) protect children when they are in jeopardy;
  - b) provide an optimal environment for the development of children within families and within the greater community;
  - c) provide enriched services for children with special needs;
  - d) provide special services for Native Indian children;
  - e) provide adequate support services to families, which would help to prevent the necessity for children to be removed from their homes.

Although the title of the Act suggests that families and children will receive "service", the definition of "service" (that is, eligibility determined by the Guaranteed Annual Income for Need Act) is extremely narrow. Child abuse and neglect affects all social and economic levels of society, and any family might require assistance at some time.

The elimination of the position of the Superintendent of Child Welfare has grave implications for the advocacy of the rights and needs of children in this Province. We feel that the best interests of children cannot be served when the Director's role is confined to a narrow view of child protection as outlined in the Act, with no provision for either child advocates or an independent role such as the Superintendent has fulfilled in this Province. It seems wise to us that the Director be responsible for administering the Act and an independent person be maintained to be an advocate on behalf of all children.

It is our contention that the legislation should contain a statement of children's rights that reflects the most enlightened thinking about children in society today. The right to health, recreation, education and adult guidance should be stated in the Act. The legislation must consider the mental, emotional and physical health needs of every child, including any special needs for care and treatment.

We believe it to be particularly important that a preamble be prepared as part of the new Act, in which the intent and purpose of the Act is presented.

We see many specific areas which must be changed, developed and improved upon:

1. The strength of good legislation is its clarity. This proposed Act contains many terms that are ill defined, such as family, child abuse, and child neglect.
2. Although the concept of a Registry is a good one, the Act fails to explain the purpose of the Registry. It fails to give criteria for registering cases. It does not define child abuse, child neglect, emotional abuse, or other forms of abuse. It does not explain who will have access to Registry information. There is no provision for expungement (which currently exists). It gives no indication of how long reports are kept.
3. The Act gives no legal mandate to social workers to assess and investigate complaints. Grounds for intervention are confined exclusively to situations where the physical well-being of the child is in jeopardy. No mention is made of emotional neglect, an important provision in the new child welfare legislation accepted by other provinces.
4. The section on Regulations is too vague and too extensive. It leaves too much to the discretion of the administration in power. This could alter the meaning of the legislation drastically without involving the legislature. Section 17(p) in particular, "any other matter", is far too open-ended.

Section 5 (1) states that "a parent having custody of a child shall take all reasonable measures to insure that the child is not in need of apprehension". It is our contention that if legislation in British Columbia were based on a positive view of services and children's rights, the proposed Family and Child Services Act would provide for the best possible family environment rather than trying to provide help after family breakdown or after damage has been done to the child.

As concerned citizens and as parents, we implore the Minister to examine our concerns and suggestions, and to consider the very enlightened legislation and thinking developed in other jurisdictions which reflect the ideas and philosophy we have presented.

The Ministry, in the White Paper distributed with the draft legislation, stated, "It is the intention of the Draft Family and Child Services Act to encourage positive, preventive approaches, and to have removal from the home seen as a last resort." We do not believe that this proposed legislation adequately provides for "positive, preventive approaches."

As the International Year of the Child approaches, we encourage the government to introduce legislation that does reflect these goals and firmly establishes the rights of children in British Columbia.

November 22, 1978.

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(Responsible to Manager-Counsellor)

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- Arranges for repair of the utilities.
- Carries out general cleaning which is not inside suites.
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- Acts as a central communication centre for the house residents, staff and community re Interim House and Interim Housing.
- Trains and supervises volunteers assigned to office duty.
- Carries out clerical duties related to the program.

How Much will it Cost?

Apart from the cost of the facility (provided by the provincial government), operating expenses including counselling, referral, child care and support services, will be about \$62,000 a year. Normal ongoing expenses encountered by a family such as rent, food, clothing and medical costs are not included. These expenses will be the responsibility of each family unit. A much higher expenditure would be necessary to provide "treatment services" for the same families.

The total cost of residential psychiatric care for two battered women would about equal the cost of the total program, which provides housing for 51 women and children and counselling referral for another 300 battered women.

A detailed budget and more information can be obtained from:

Director,  
Interim House,  
Vancouver Y.W.C.A.,  
580 Burrard Street,  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6C 2K9

(683-2531)

EIGHT WORKSHOPS ON  
FAMILY VIOLENCE

Report of the  
Education Working Group  
Task Force on Family Violence  
United Way of the Lower Mainland

Prepared by:

Diana Ellis  
Jessie MacGregor

Education Working Group  
October 1978

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## I. BACKGROUND

From January to September of 1978, the Education Working Group of the United Way Task Force on Family Violence was involved in the planning and staging of eight Workshops on Family Violence throughout British Columbia. These workshops, funded by the Non Medical Use of Drugs Directorate of the Federal Department of Health and Welfare, and the Federal Department of Secretary of State, were intended to draw together professionals, community groups and the public in order to examine the problem of, and attitudes towards, family violence as a whole; to provide an opportunity for discussion of family violence in the local community; and hopefully, to stimulate local actions that would lead to the provision of better and more effective services for those persons affected by family violence.

The eight workshop locations were chosen through consultation with local contacts - both community and institutional. The first workshop took place in Vernon in January and included participants from Penticton, Kelowna, Armstrong, Salmon Arm and Revelstoke. The second workshop, at the Thunderbird Neighbourhood Centre in east Vancouver, also took place in January and had a specific focus towards persons involved in community recreation centres, as well as social workers, police and others. The second Vancouver area workshop was organized at Britannia Community Centre in early February for persons who work with non-English speaking families. The fourth workshop was held in March in Prince George and included participants from that city as well as Vanderhoof, McBride, Mackenzie and Quesnel. The workshops in the Queen Charlotte Islands and Terrace occurred "back-to-back" in June and the participant list for Terrace included the towns of Hazelton, Smithers, Kitimat and Prince Rupert. The Sechelt workshop took place in June and the final one, in Nelson, in September. The Nelson workshop attracted participants from Kaslo, Trail, Castlegar, Salmo and Creston.

Once a main contact person was located in each community, the Task Force Co-ordinator would ask this person to set up a local steering committee that would be representative of the various community groups, social service agencies, educational, health and legal institutions in the area. The Co-ordinator was able to attend at least one pre-workshop meeting in each community, except for the Sechelt and Queen Charlotte workshops. The agenda for each workshop was set by the local steering committee in consultation with the Task Force Co-ordinator and local resource people were sought out in each instance. "Outside" resource people were chosen by the local committee from a list prepared by the Task Force Co-ordinator.

The material for this report was taken from evaluation forms completed by workshop participants. A summary of each workshop's evaluation forms comprises Topic VI of this report.

## II. STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE WORKSHOPS

The workshops did not follow any mandatory pre-planned structure, nor were they the same in length. A variety of formats were used - plenary sessions, panels, small workshop/discussion groups, media presentations - though not necessarily at all workshops. On some occasions the groups were divided in half with half attending a child abuse session and half attending a wife-battering session, with the groups reversed the following day. Sometimes groups met in plenary first and then split into smaller groups. It should be noted that all communities involved in a workshop in this series were asked to form a community planning group that would take on the responsibility of deciding the format and content of the workshop, as well as deciding who would be invited to it. As the workshop funding stipulated that the focus include public education, the Co-ordinator made it clear that invitations should be made to lay community groups (Crisis Lines, Women's Centres, etc.) as well as professionals (social workers, teachers, nurses, police, etc.). It was found that in communities where the main contact persons were professionally oriented the workshop list had fewer lay community participants and public participation.

Although the evaluation forms did not have a specific question about workshop structure, it was clear from the comments that participants wanted to be able to attend all the presentations. The first workshop, in Vernon, did not offer this to participants and they were clearly unhappy with having to make a decision between workshops on child abuse or wife battering. Subsequent workshops, even those which were only one day in length, ensured that everyone was able to hear presentations on both topics.

Panel sessions were generally well liked and seemed to present topics in a valid and effective manner, particularly when they were composed of a wide selection of people interested, and having expertise in, the problem. In some workshops there was "lay input" (i.e., from women who had the experience of being beaten, and parents who had been abusive) and participants felt this was extremely useful and effective.

"Donnie Patterson's presentation was excellent, perhaps mostly because of her personal experience" Prince George

"The woman from Parents in Crisis was excellent" Prince George

"It was interesting for me to hear some first hand accounts of battered women" Sechelt

Many participants also found it useful to have input from local people and groups involved in dealing with the problem at a community level. In workshops where this did not occur some participants commented on its absence and felt that as a whole, the presentations

that were done by outside resource people only lacked sufficient consideration and knowledge of the local community.

"leaders appear not to know our community, it's not typical"  
Sechelt

"not sufficiently brought to local level" Vernon

"there was not enough detailing of local family violence,  
identifying and recording" Prince George

"It is important that the people giving the workshop realize  
that the problems of family violence are not unknown to us,  
but there is little to offer those in need here" Nelson

Criticisms of the smaller workshops (i.e., when the larger plenary sessions broke into working groups) reflected two main problems. One problem participants commented on was the lack of an overview of family violence that allowed both wife-battering and child abuse to be approached in a cohesive way. As a result, wife-battering and child abuse were seen as completely different problems, leading participants to compare these small workshops against each other as to how well or badly information was presented, rather than enabling participants to integrate the information into a more useful approach in dealing with families.

"there needs to be a political analysis of the family and  
the role of men and women within it -- that violence in  
the family can happen as a result of the power structure"  
Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

"we must work at re-examining value systems...family  
violence is a symptom and we must examine the whole"  
Vernon

"the most important information gained for me was under-  
standing the need for societal change...for expanding or  
changing the nuclear family to make it a community res-  
ponsibility with many support systems" Vernon

The second problem was that of attempting to accomplish three different tasks: that of developing a theoretical framework, of providing information, and of developing techniques for dealing with the problem. Many participants felt that one or another of these had been left out or inadequately dealt with.

"What about sibling violence?" Nelson

"more details needed on neglect vs. abuse" Prince George

"more info on wives who batter their husbands" Prince George

"more specifics re methods of collecting evidence and writing reports" Vernon

"how do I intervene?" Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

"what can non-professionals do to help?" Terrace

"causes of family violence not dealt with in depth" Britannia, Vancouver

"want to learn assessment skills" Britannia, Vancouver

"a forum for exchange of our own experiences working in our own area would have had more impact for me, with resource people as consultants rather than professors - we would have left with more concrete ideas, energy" Queen Charlotte's

This partly reflects time constraints, but more basically reflects the need for more careful planning on the part of resource people and planning committees to establish clearer objectives and methods of working. This planning is especially important when one is presenting material to participants who are both professionals (nurses, recreators, teachers, police, social workers, etc.) and lay persons (crisis centre staff, women's groups, transition house staff, community service volunteers, etc.) in that the language used for a "professional presentation" can alienate and exclude lay workers. It is crucial, however, that the family violence material be made available to those lay workers - so many of whom make up such an important part of the social service delivery system in many communities, especially those outside of the lower mainland area. Perhaps it is important to remember that to date, an analysis of family violence is not taught in professional schools, and that as a result some of the client "problems" are indeed problems that the professional has with the topic of family violence. It seems, therefore, equally important to "get back to the basics" with the professionals as well.

### III. CONTENT

The responses clearly indicate that each workshop was not enough and that there need to be many more. Respondents were consistent in stating that on the one hand they found all the information useful and important, but that on the other hand, it was still not enough.

Specifically, many mentioned the difficulty of dealing with such an emotionally charged topic, particularly one on which there has been so little discussion or research, in a one or two day session.

"this is such an anxiety producing issue that community problem solving efforts are impaired" Terrace

"people are too emotionally involved..." Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

"there should be an opportunity for small group activity to deal with the emotional and personal reactions to the subject matter" Nelson

"I learned that family violence is more endemic than I believed and that I too need to control my own violence"  
(male) Vernon

"it is not possible to deal with violence in others without dealing with the violence in ourselves" Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

Respondents referred to their previous complete lack of information, and the difficulty of assimilating too much in too short a period of time. At the same time they mentioned areas where they wanted more information or further discussion, such as theory, intervention techniques, practical information, knowledge of women's legal rights, court procedures and community resources.

"why do men batter their wives?" Terrace

"I would enjoy a workshop on treatment of families and children who are involved in abuse situations" Terrace

"This should be a series of workshops" Prince George

"this type of conference would be of great benefit to the public and not just professionals" Prince George

"Besides the obvious fact that one day is not enough to discuss and gain information, what I did learn I consider invaluable" Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

"Would like a workshop on the same topic just for MHR personnel - to look at prevention through family counseling and therapy" Nelson

"I know 100% more than I did at 9 a.m. about family violence"  
Thunderbird

"We need another 2 day workshop, but on one aspect of family violence only" Nelson

Over and over again, people indicated their need for basic information about family violence that would assist them in their day to day work. It could be argued that even a week-long session once a month would not be enough but the point to be made is that we cannot depend on eight individual workshops to properly educate and animate the whole of British Columbia on the topic. We have the responsibility to encourage more public education on the matter, especially outside of the lower mainland area. As well, those persons involved in the training of professionals must respond to those who seemed almost desperate for a clearer theoretical understanding of family violence, as well as more assessment and intervention skills.

### A. Child Abuse

All communities responded immediately, favourably and forcefully to the need to know more about the problem of child abuse, indicating the gravity of the problem, and the need for regional child abuse team development in all areas of British Columbia.

"we need greater and better co-ordination of child abuse assessment and planning and need to put effort into supporting community workers of this town who are making good attempts to improve the services"  
Nelson

"I would like to see us develop a team of workers available at all times to deal with all suspected or known cases of child abuse" Vernon

"I believe there should be a small core group of paid professionals in the Prince George area - an abuse team for child abuse and wife battering, who operate on a consultation basis and/or do client work" Prince George

"Professionals in the child abuse area should be encouraged to act on prevention" Nelson

"We need a shelter and immediate help for women and children in crisis" Terrace

Respondents in all workshops wanted to learn more intervention techniques and there were constant requests for actual case studies to be talked about. These requests came from professionals and lay persons and indicate a need for practical follow-up techniques to be clarified.

"I need more crisis intervention skills" Nelson

"I want to know more about what happens to children after they are removed from the home" Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

"How do I deal with the parents as well as the child?" Prince George

"I would like to see a workshop on techniques as this seems to be an area of counselling that the generalized training of therapists does not cover adequately enough" Terrace

"I would have liked to have had more information on how to deal with cases of family violence through role playing etc." Vernon

"I would like to see additional films on child abuse and have more discussion on how myself and other recreators can deal with these problems"  
Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

"What about the sexual abuse of children?" Terrace

At the same time, respondents were thankful for the efforts of all child abuse resource persons and indicated that they had learned much that would be applicable to their work.

"I learned a greater insight into children's behaviour and more understanding as to the reasons for child abuse" Nelson

"the workshop changed my apathetic attitude to families I see in these situations to the point of giving them more of my time -- and to listen" Prince George

"I am a day care teacher and I want to help children, mothers and fathers to get away from sex role stereotyping which is a major factor in abuse" Terrace

"the workshop brought the realization that as a parent I have the potential to misuse my power, authority and position as a parent" Nelson

"I found the sessions on child abuse valuable to me in my recreation career" Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

"a good workshop which dispelled some of my own myths regarding wife beating and which reassured me regarding intervention in child abuse situations"  
Terrace

"I learned a greater awareness of child abuse" Vernon

The areas of child abuse that people desired more information on were neglect, discipline versus abuse, sexual abuse and incest. Every workshop elicited requests for more information on these topics, especially the latter two.

#### B. Wife Battering

The topic of wife battering more frequently created tension and even disagreement among the participants than did the topic of child abuse, as might be expected from such an emotionally laden issue. There was more of a consensus among the participants as to remedies for child abuse, and the need for intervention, as well as the kinds of information wanted.

In contrast, the topic of wife battering occasionally provoked attitudes of defensiveness or a denial of the severity of the problem. Myths around wife battering appear to be more widely held, while most people clearly perceived that child abuse was not to be tolerated.

"what is the wife doing to get herself battered?"  
Queen Charlotte's

"conversation always seemed to return to wife beating. As a male member of the audience I resented the use of the pronoun "he". I would make a wild guess that there are more cases of husband beating than was indicated. And what about those people in our society that are sadistic or masochistic?"  
Queen Charlotte's

"felt there was too much emphasis on the female which I thought was a put-down for the men in the workshop" Vernon

"...a male perspective should have been presented. I get defensive when I sit and listen to a woman analyzing how men feel about anger..." (male)  
Nelson

"many of the men seemed to feel the focus was anti-male...I personally didn't feel this way. Men in this society are the perpetrators of more violence than women. When child abuse was discussed, women's roles as abusers was emphasized, but women in the conference did not get defensive about this. Yet when wife abuse was discussed and men were implicated, some of them became defensive"  
Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

Many participants nevertheless expressed relief at being able to discuss and explore the attitudes surrounding wife battering. The dynamic interaction created by this kind of tension was beneficial, in fact probably essential in any work toward exploring and changing attitudes.

"this conference was a great start for me...very invigorating, provocative, unsettling, but in a positive sense" Prince George

"I have a better awareness of the incidence and severity of violence against women and what to do..." Vernon

"I will now have more empathy in my contacts with abused women" Nelson

"I appreciated the feminist perspectives which I think are essential for a conference on family violence" Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

"I learned sensitivity to the women's ambivalence in the situation of wife battering" Prince George

"there was an obvious bias, particularly in wife battering. There are obvious emotional reactions to the reality of abuse and a need to deal with them - to work them through" Nelson

"I expect to be more sensitive to why battered women don't leave their homes and to be less judgemental if they return" Terrace

"Thank God people are finally talking about it" Vernon

Many participants indicated that the most useful part of the workshop, as well as the area that needed greater attention, was an analysis of the extent of all aspects of family violence, the myths surrounding it and the socio-economic causes.

"It was most important for me to learn the historical and theoretical perspectives of the abuse of wives" Vernon

"we need more attention paid to the dynamics of power, property and sexism within the culture which create the situations which lead in great part to the beginnings of family violence" Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

"It was important for me to understand more clearly the social fabric in which family violence is condoned" Vernon

As well, participants in most workshops expressed a real curiosity about the wife-batterer, about how and why he batters and what can be done about support services for him, indicating a need for those who are doing work in this area to bring forward their findings and share their expertise.

"What makes a man beat his wife?" Nelson

"would like to hear more about the men's support group" Prince George

"are there resources available for the husband who batters?" Vernon

#### IV. OTHER ISSUES RAISED

In the course of the workshops and in the evaluations themselves other concerns were raised and problems identified that had not been foreseen in the planning of the workshops themselves.

##### A. Inter-agency Communication

One of the objectives of this series of workshops was to increase communication and co-operation between ministries, agencies and community groups. It was envisioned that this communication and co-operation would occur around the area of family violence. However, the workshops provided an unanticipated opportunity for wider concerns to be brought up. In each workshop there were comments on the lack of co-operation between agencies and lack of understanding between professional workers. A recreation worker in Vancouver said it very simply:

"there seems to be some kind of communication gap between the social workers, the recreation workers, and the law" Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

The expressed hope of many participants was that work begun at the meeting would continue and that increased inter-agency/inter-ministerial communication, both in terms of resource information and client referrals, would diminish bureaucratic overlap and increase their own effectiveness with clients.

"The most important information for me was learning of teamwork possibilities with other professions and services" MHR worker, Nelson

"I will be seeking ways to co-ordinate professional and para-professionals approach to the problem" Clergyman, Vernon

"what I'd like to see happen as a follow-up is more exchange of ideas and possible solutions to shared problems between various community services" MHR worker, Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

"I will be disseminating information through in-service for professionals, media and community education/development workshops" Mental health worker, Vernon

"I will begin to use family court workers as more of a resource" Nelson

"I would like more feedback between various agencies, especially between social workers and the police" Police Constable, Britannia

"I will begin to encourage RCMP to inform us of incidents of violence in the community so my agency can make contact with them" Nelson

"the most important thing I learned at the workshop was that we are all here on the Islands, trying to work with and for each other" Health & Human Resources worker, Queen Charlotte's

#### B. Community Resources

All respondents were enthusiastic about learning of the resources (people, media, written material) available on the topic of family violence, both in their community and elsewhere. The tone of their response should be of concern to those people involved in the promotion of resource material and is another indicator of the need for consistent education of the public and professional in all aspects of family violence.

It is interesting and important to note that when people talked about follow-up action they looked at it in terms of locally based action and locally based resources, pointing out once again the desire (of non-lower mainland communities especially) to have some direct control over access to social service programming and delivery in their region.

"I need more resources for families in crisis - local resources not 60 miles away" out of town delegate to Prince George

"we need to establish a child abuse team who are accountable to all helping persons in this community" Prince George

"I will be working towards the co-ordination of family services in our community and looking towards forming self-help groups" Queen Charlotte Islands

#### C. Involvement of Professional Workers in Community Groups

Professional workers from government agencies, in many instances, both during the workshops and in the evaluations, indicated their interest in working more in the community around these issues. The problem seemed to be one of time and of the limitations of their job description. Several indicated their desire to work more with existing community groups, or to assist in forming them but indicated that this was not seen as part of their duties and in any case, their time was taken up with caseloads and the resultant paper-work. People making these comments indicated that they felt such community participation ought to be a legitimate part of their work.

"social workers should become more involved with community centres where people hang out"  
Recreation Programmer, Thunderbird Centre, Vancouver

"I intend to become more community oriented and aware of support groups" Nurse, Terrace

"It is important that individually one participates more in community groups" MHR worker, Prince George

"I would like to talk more directly to public groups as well as professionals, but I don't know how at present" MHR worker, Vernon

"I will try to develop workshops on family violence for the community" Public Health Nurse, Queen Charlotte's

"The biggest need I feel right now is to personally and professionally get more involved by reading, getting more involved in groups" Nurse, Prince George

"I would be willing to belong to a men's self-help group composed of batterers and professionals as well" MHR worker, Nelson

#### V. CONCLUSION

Each workshop attracted more participants than there was room for and this is yet another indication that there is a need for this kind of education, as well as the ongoing in-service professional training provided more commonly by staff development divisions of various agencies and ministries. The fact that most of these provincial workshops combined the public, "lay" community groups and professionals is important for it is not very often that these groups interface with one another, yet they see many of the same people.

Respondents indicated that there were two ways that communication between and amongst community groups (crisis lines, women's centres, transition houses) and the professional "helping persons" (police, nurses, social workers, teachers) were improved. The first was through meeting face to face with one another. These workshops offered an opportunity for de-mystification of each other's work - an important step forward in improving situations such as inter-agency and inter-group referrals etc.

Future workshops could be enhanced by utilizing a good pre-planning model such as was developed through these eight workshops, continuing lay community participation and an emphasis on community based future action. It is useful to point out here that citizen participation in an event is more likely to ensure some form of ongoing commitment to action. This is especially true in non-urban communities where social service professionals often move in and out of their positions, and the community, relatively quickly. Because of this short working time

it is often difficult for them to develop real community roots. This is yet another reason why it is important for such community workers to be involved in co-ordinating the planning of such workshops because they usually know their community better than anyone else.

As has been stated previously, it was clear from the evaluations that there was a need for more discussion and analysis of family violence different from that which is generally being put forward in professional training, or in lay publications and discussions, indeed, if it is being put forward at all. Models of child development and the interactional model for looking at family dynamics, while they assist in developing practical techniques such as crisis intervention, can be seen to have some limitations in both understanding and dealing with the problem of family violence as a whole.

There is a need for a broader analysis of the socio-economic influences on the family and this would include a consideration of unemployment as it affects men and their relationship with their wife and children, and as it affects the possibility of economic independence for women, either singly or with their children. As well, we cannot talk about child abuse or wife battering without talking of the need for family support systems such as childcare, child minding services; the harmful effects of sex role stereotyping of males and females; and the effects of the imposition of the nuclear family model as an "ideal" place for people to interact.

The fundamental dynamics of and the reality of the changing family, the challenge to the traditional sex roles, the role of children in our society, the children's rights movement, the economic malaise in Canada, notions of privacy of the family and community, the effects of socio-economic instability on men, women and children -- all these points must be addressed. There must be articulated a workable and stimulating analysis and recognition of these changes. Care must be taken to sensitively but directly seek a model for challenging our own and each other's attitudes and values.

Much of this has been done by professional and community women in the women's movement, and such a challenge was introduced in these workshops by these women. There is a need for more people interested in developing this analysis to work together. Presentation of this kind of a challenge is not an easy task, as it inevitably arouses initial reactions of antagonism, skepticism and invalidation, but it is this stimulation that prepares the way for change. The very fact that attitudes and biases were exposed in whatever way, points to the potential success of this kind of challenge. It also serves to illustrate how important it is to organize future workshops to ensure that the challenge is presented, and that as well as talking about intervention, we talk about working toward the potential for change.

## VI. EVALUATION SUMMARIES (comments, questionnaires)

The evaluation form questions are listed below. Because of the open end design of the questionnaire it was impossible to tabulate responses in a systematic numerical manner. To avoid repetition, answers to each question were first of all grouped together in general topic areas and then the topic areas were listed. Topics mentioned more frequently are placed at the head of the listings.

Several of the questions asked could be interpreted in such a way as to make them seem redundant (questions 2 and 5, 3 and 4 specifically) and as a result respondents tended to give the same answers to each of those question sets. As well, answers to question 7 were not at all as specific as requested, indicating that respondents were not able, or not ready, to consider actually planning for long term follow-up actions. However, the personal nature of many of their responses indicates that the "attitude change" component built into workshop content was having some effect.

### EVALUATION QUESTIONS

- (1) How adequately did the presentations cover what you consider to be the key aspects of family violence?
 

Very Adequately _____	Inadequately _____
Adequately _____	Very Inadequately _____
No Opinion _____	
- (2) What omissions in the subject matter were there?
- (3) Rank in order of importance what for you were the most important issues discussed.
- (4) What, for you, was the most important information gained at the workshop?
- (5) What aspects of family violence do you think should have been given greater attention?
- (6) What new directions or changes will you be attempting to set in motion as a result, at least in part, of your participation in the workshop?
- (7) What would you most like to see happen as a follow-up (specify the topic, the issue, the action strategy and whom you think should be responsible).
- (8) In what ways can you help to disseminate the information discussed at this workshop?
- (9) Other comments.

A. Vernon Workshop - January 1978 - 60 respondents, 120 participants

(1) How adequately did the presentations cover what you consider to be the key aspects of family violence?

Very Adequately	16	26.7%
Adequately	37	61.7%
No Opinion	2	3.3%
Inadequately	5	8.3%
Very Inadequately	-	-

(2) What omissions in the subject matter were there?

- what processes do we use after recognizing there is a problem?
- need more information on psychological abuse - women and children
- need more information on the male batterer and possible treatment
- you didn't talk about aggressive women and their role in collaboration of family violence
- how do we deal with secondary victims - children who witness violence in the home
- would like more information on information collecting and report writing
- there should have been more discussion of local problems
- more information needed about incest

(3) Rank in order of importance what for you were the most important issues discussed.

1. Child abuse/neglect
2. Perspectives on family violence
3. Battered women and resources available to them
4. Legal rights of women
5. Transition Houses

(4) What, for you, was the most important information gained at the workshop?

- the awareness of how many people are concerned
- that family violence is more endemic than realized
- treatment of child abuse
- legal rights of women
- better understanding of battered women
- alcohol abuse and its relationship to violence
- how abuse cases are handled by professionals
- information on transition houses
- knowledge of resources available
- sexual abuse
- emotional damage to battered and batterer
- societal attitudes towards family violence
- looking at family violence in socio-economic terms

- (5) What aspects of family violence do you think should have been given greater attention?
- more on follow-up support services
  - emotional aspects of family violence
  - more on resources for men who batter
  - psychological abuse
  - more on incest and sexual abuse
  - more on women's abuse of men, children's abuse of parents
  - role of alcohol
  - more on clinical and practical aspects of dealing with child abuse
  - what is the medical profession doing about prevention and treatment
- (6) What new directions or changes will you be attempting to set in motion as a result, at least in part, of your participation in the workshop?
- will begin some kind of new program at their workplace (ideas ranged from Parents Anonymous group, men's liberation group, seminars on and for battered women, family support programs)
  - seek ways of co-ordinating resource people
  - make others aware through conversation, public speaking, clients, etc.
  - will become more alert to the problem in my own sphere (workplace, etc.)
  - will do more personal reading/research on the topic
- (7) What would you most like to see happen as a follow-up (specify the topic, the issue, the action strategy and who you think should be responsible).
- create a task force on family violence for this region
  - more public education should be available
  - use the media more effectively to mobilize the community
  - groups (professional and lay) should work together
  - parenting skills should be taught in family life courses in schools
  - there should be political pressure put on government for legislative change
  - work towards establishing 24 hour daycare
  - plan further seminars using local resources

(8) In what ways can you help to disseminate the information discussed at this workshop?

- write articles for local press
- general public discussion in my work and personal life
- talk to schools and agency people
- provide training sessions for volunteers
- talk to clients
- discuss with church group

(9) Other comments.

"I believe this is the first really excellent display of what is happening to the public monies available for projects that I have seen."

"was really impressed with the sophisticated level of presentation and organization...including film and video presentations"

"I enjoyed the interaction with my peers in the helping jobs. I feel a slightly wiser and refreshed counsellor and teacher."

"I'd like to see as a part of prevention the teaching of basic living skills."

B. Thunderbird Centre (Vancouver) Workshop - January 1978  
35 respondents, 70 participants

(1) How adequately did the presentations and workshop cover what you consider to be the key aspects of family violence?

Very Adequately	1	2.9%
Adequately	29	82.8%
No Opinion	1	2.9%
Inadequately	4	11.4%
Very Inadequately	-	-

(2) What omissions in the subject matter were there?

- need more discussion of violence in our own community and the role of community centres and recreators
- want more specific material on how to intervene, and what happens when you intervene in a child abuse case
- need more on roles of men and women in society and how that affects the possibilities of violence in the family
- more on emotional abuse
- want to know more about men who batter their wives
- sexual abuse
- more on post partum depression

(3) Rank in order of importance what for you were the most important issues discussed.

1. Child abuse
2. Resources available
3. Wife battering
4. Definition of family violence
5. How to intervene in a family violence dispute

(4) What for you was the most important information gained at the workshop?

- knowledge of resources, agencies available on the topic
- discussion of recreator's role in family violence
- knowledge of lack of co-ordination of services offered
- neglect indicators
- dispelling of myth re alcohol and violence
- emotional abuse indicators
- legal issues re reporting of child abuse
- better understanding of wife battering issues

- (5) What aspects of family violence do you think should have been given greater attention?
- more on child abuse/neglect
  - more on political analysis of family violence/nuclear family etc.
  - more on battered women facing society
  - more on incest
  - more on recreator's role as a preventive agent
  - more on post partum depression
- (6) What new directions or changes will you be attempting to set in motion as a result, at least in part, of your participation in the workshop?
- will develop more programs at my workplace
  - will inform co-workers
  - will inform public of resources, agencies, services
  - will develop a better personal cognition of indicators of abuse, and report
  - will work more closely with other agencies
  - will continue to develop a personal understanding of the issue
- (7) What would you most like to see happen as follow-up (specify the topic, the issue, the action strategy and who you think should be responsible).
- there should be more co-operation on the part of other agencies, with community centres
  - there should be better guidelines re discipline and abuse
  - community centres should set up committees to investigate family violence
  - there should be a staff review of current policy and participation in inter-agency response
  - more workshops
  - more guidelines of what recreators can do to help
- (8) In what ways can you help to disseminate the information discussed at this workshop?
- will distribute resource material to the public
  - will use staff meetings to discuss the issue with co-workers
  - will have resource material available for clients
- (9) Other comments.
- "was an excellent awareness session and I am encouraged that recreation people were so involved"
- "one day not enough"
- "there is a need for recreation workers to define their role to figure out at which point they should intervene and to work out how much their own experiences have influenced their perceptions of violence"
- "too much emphasis on male chauvinism"
- "appreciated feminist perspectives on family violence"
- "workshop introduced me to a lot of areas I was really gray about"

C. Britannia Workshop (Vancouver) - February 1978  
12 respondents, 14 participants

- (1) How adequately did the presentations and workshops cover what you consider to be the key aspects of family violence?
- |                   |   |       |
|-------------------|---|-------|
| Very Adequately   | 4 | 33.4% |
| Adequately        | 6 | 50.0% |
| No Opinion        | 1 | 8.3%  |
| Inadequately      | 1 | 8.3%  |
| Very Inadequately | - | -     |
- (2) What omissions in the subject matter were there?
- psychological abuse
  - rape of wives by husbands
  - assessment skills
  - preventive services
  - abuse of males
  - what is the dividing line between discipline and abuse?
  - teen violence
- (3) Rank in order of importance what for you were the most important issues discussed.
1. Child abuse
  2. Police perspective on the issue
  3. Wife battering
  4. Practical application of the law
  5. Economic aspects of family violence
- (4) What, for you, was the most important information gained at the workshop?
- understanding of reality and severity of the problem
  - origins of family violence
  - information on child abuse
  - resources available
  - knowledge of division of opinion between professionals on the topic
  - men's groups that do exist
  - counselling methods
- (5) What aspects of family violence do you think should have been given greater attention?
- ways and means of intervention in family violence disputes
  - more on causes behind violence
  - more on violence on all family members, not just women
  - more on wife battery
  - more on child abuse
  - more on practical application of the law

- (6) What new directions will you be attempting to set in motion as a result, at least in part, of your participation in the workshop?
- more communication between social service agencies
  - in-service education programs
  - discussion of issues with my clients
  - more personal work and study on this issue
  - more programs for clients
- (7) What would you most like to see happen as a follow-up (specify the topic, the issue, the action strategy and who you think should be responsible).
- organized community demand for government funding for school programs, adequate childcare, lay group training, transition houses
  - more agency communication and co-operation
  - more funding for cross-cultural education
- (8) In what ways can you help to disseminate the information discussed at this workshop?
- passing information along to volunteers
  - passing on to co-workers
  - provide multi-lingual services
- (9) Other comments.
- "special care should be taken that the video tape show on abused wives does not become an obvious vehicle for our message. As such it can be dismissed or threatening to husbands who will not let their wives see it"

D. Prince George Workshop - March 1978 - 56 respondents, 70 participants

(1) How adequately did the presentations cover what you consider to be the key aspects of family violence?

Very Adequately	15	26.8%
Adequately	37	66.0%
No Opinion	1	1.8%
Inadequately	3	5.4%
Very Inadequately	-	-

(2) What omissions in the subject matter were there?

- more on emotional/mental abuse
- more on sexual abuse
- more on programs and therapy for abused children
- more on battering husband and his needs
- more concrete suggestions on how to recognize problems
- more on neglect vs. abuse
- more on native Indian problems in this area of B.C.
- what about information on husband batterers?

(3) Rank in order of importance what were the most important issues discussed, for you.

1. Wife battering
2. Child abuse/neglect
3. Extent of family violence in our society
4. Solving the problem
5. Post partum depression

(4) What, for you, was the most important information gained at the workshop?

- information on other agencies, resources
- shattering of wife battering myths
- reality and extent of family violence, its dynamics
- how to recognize family violence problems
- awareness of inconsistent approach by social workers to this problem
- need for transition houses in the north
- information on men's support groups
- difficulties facing battered women with small children

(5) What aspects of family violence do you think should have been given greater attention?

- personal experiences in the "how to" of reporting and follow-up in child abuse cases
- incest
- child abuse generally

(cont.)

- neglect
  - man who batters
  - preventive measures
  - working with children of battered wives
  - attitudes of professionals towards family violence
- (6) What new directions or changes will you be attempting to set in motion as a result, at least in part, of your participation in the workshop?
- will take more action in my own workplace (programs, referrals)
  - will work towards developing a better personal understanding of the issue
  - more co-operation with other agencies
  - will investigate self-help models and adapt to my own community
  - more publicity on issue
  - will do more follow-up of reported abuse and neglect cases
- (7) What would you most like to see happen as a follow-up (specify the topic, the issue, the action strategy and who you think should be responsible).
- more co-operation between agencies
  - formation of small self-help groups - perhaps public health sponsored
  - establishment of a child abuse team
  - parents-in-crisis line
  - more workshops
  - more publicity
  - more local resources for families in crisis
  - more transition house facilities
- (8) What ways can you disseminate information discussed at this workshop?
- share information with co-workers
  - give information to clients
  - distribute material to public
  - staff training
  - agency newsletter
- (9) Other comments.
- "I hope that the films used could be part of a community information presentation rather than limited to agency use only"
- "an excellent presentation, much information learned, attitudes examined and changed"
- "I enjoyed being with other people who are doing different things with common goals"
- "should be a series, too much information for one short workshop"
- "I feel a better understanding of family violence and as a volunteer in a crisis line it is essential to have this understanding to help people"

E. Queen Charlotte Islands Workshop - May 1978 - 23 respondents,  
40 participants

- (1) How adequately did the presentations cover what you consider to be the key aspects of family violence?
- |                   |    |       |
|-------------------|----|-------|
| Very Adequately   | 7  | 30.5% |
| Adequately        | 13 | 56.5% |
| No Opinion        | 3  | 13.0% |
| Inadequately      | -  | -     |
| Very Inadequately | -  | -     |
- (2) What omissions in the subject matter were there?
- how to intervene
  - foster, adoptive family neglect/abuse
  - incest
  - need more on alcohol related violence
  - need info on transition house for non-battered women and kids
  - alcohol drug abuse by young children
  - more public education
  - weak on male role in violence
- (3) Rank in order of importance what for you were the most important issues discussed.
1. Child abuse/neglect
  2. Wife battering
  3. Post partum depression and counselling
  4. Role of alcohol in family violence
  5. Intervention techniques
- (4) What, for you, was the most important information gained at the workshop?
- that we are all trying to work together
  - info on wife battering
  - info on post partum counselling and parents in crisis
  - encouragement to become involved and be motivated
  - info on local resources
  - info on child abuse
  - intervention skills
- (5) What aspects of family violence do you think should have been given greater attention?
- material on neglect (wife, emotional, child)
  - incest, rape
  - abused parents, sibling violence
  - more specific case studies
  - treatment for battering men
  - discussion of violence among native families
  - alcohol related problems
  - how we learn violence in early stages of life

- (6) What new directions or changes will you be attempting to set in motion as a result, at least in part, of your participation in the workshop?
- will be attempting to do more public education
  - will start a lay counselling service in Masset
  - will gather additional information
  - take a liaison role with volunteer groups
  - form self-help groups
  - start a wife battering support group
  - take a more professional approach to my job
- (7) What would you most like to see happen as a follow-up (specify the topic, the issue, the action strategy and who you think should be responsible).
- more specific program information
  - organization of community support system for the family
  - directory of total community services
  - films in schools
  - effective parenting workshop
  - life skills workshop
  - self-help group for natives
  - more availability of counselling
  - inter-agency activity
  - wife battering workshop
- (8) In what ways can you help to disseminate the information discussed at this workshop?
- talk to other people at home, in the workplace
  - articles in local papers
  - in-service education for staff
  - contact RCMP
  - start a resource file
- (9) Other comments.
- "I really enjoyed the workshop - found it very supportive"
- "your team works well together"
- "not enough time"
- "a forum for exchange of our own experiences working in our area would have had more impact for me personally"
- "very interesting two days"

F. Terrace Workshop - May 1978 - 44 respondents, 75 participants

- (1) How adequately did the presentations cover what you consider to be the key aspects of family violence?

Very Adequately	16	36.4%
Adequately	27	61.3%
No Opinion	1	2.3%
Inadequately	-	-
Very Inadequately	-	-

- (2) What omissions in the subject matter were there?

- more specific cases re child abuse
- more on rape and sexual assault
- more on intervention techniques
- more on roots of family violence in our society
- more on batterers
- more on how non-professionals can help
- more on value clarification of workers
- more on how to activate community

- (3) Rank in order of importance what for you were the most important issues discussed.

1. Child abuse/neglect
2. Wife battering
3. Transition House
4. Help for child abusers
5. Extent of family violence in our society

- (4) What, for you, was the most important information gained at the workshop?

- information on wife battering
- the need for emergency shelters for women and children
- awareness of the extent of the problem
- developing a more compassionate view of the abuser and batterer
- learning of the community services available

- (5) What aspects of family violence do you think should have been given greater attention?

- why men batter, and how to treat them
- child abuse
- how non-professionals (family, neighbours) can help
- sexual abuse
- alcohol and relationship to violence

- (6) What new directions or changes will you be attempting to set in motion as a result, at least in part, of your participation in the workshop?
- working towards a transition house
  - setting up some kind of community self-help programs
  - setting up programs at my place of work
  - more awareness in my work generally
  - working with community resources more closely
- (7) What would you most like to see happen as a follow up (specify the topic, the issue, the action strategy and who you think should be responsible).
- get a transition house for the area
  - do community research on the topic that will lead to an action strategy
  - self-help groups for batterers
  - more interaction between agencies and professionals
  - a workshop on counselling techniques
  - workshops for other teachers on professional days
- (8) In what ways can you help to disseminate the information discussed in this workshop?
- through personal contact with other people
  - with my clients
  - by doing in-service workshop with staff
  - through public meetings
- (9) Other comments.
- "good resource people"
- "good workshop - dispelled some of my own myths regarding wife battering and reassured me regarding intervention in child abuse situations"

G. Sechelt Workshop - June 1978 - 12 respondents - 34 participants

(1) How adequately did the presentations cover what you consider to be the key aspects of family violence?

Very Adequately	2	16.6%
Adequately	8	66.8%
No Opinion	-	-
Inadequately	3	16.6%
Very Inadequately	-	-

(2) What omissions in the subject matter were there?

- incest
- role of alcohol and drug abuse
- violence on other family members
- intervention techniques
- legal advice
- local community situation

(3) Rank in order of importance what for you were the most important issues discussed.

1. Wife battering
2. Child abuse
3. Amount of family violence in society
4. Professional attitudes towards family violence
5. Legal aspects

(4) What for you was the most important information gained at the workshop?

- information on resources
- wife battering
- problems battered women have with the system

(5) What aspects of family violence do you think should have been given greater attention?

- child abuse
- planning for child abuse part of workshop
- more battered women present to tell professionals what they need from them
- more role playing on family intervention
- more treatment techniques for abusive families

- (6) What new directions or changes will you be attempting to set in motion as a result, at least in part, of your participation at the workshop?
- will do more public education and crisis volunteer training
  - information dissemination
  - will follow up with an all agency meeting
  - will have more awareness in my work
  - will work to raise awareness of social workers re wife battering
- (7) What would you most like to see happen as follow-up (specify the topic, the issue, the action strategy and who you think should be responsible).
- more publicity on the topic in the area
  - more education through the school system
  - self-help clinic for abusers through the women's centre
  - development of a transition house
  - crisis centre
- (8) In what ways can you help to disseminate the information discussed at this workshop?
- discussions with other community resources
  - public speaking
  - more workshops
- (9) Other comments.
- "it did not do justice to either topic to squeeze them into one day"
- "workshop structure for child abuse not effective"
- "need more time"

**CONTINUED**

**1 OF 2**

H. Nelson Workshop - September 1978 - 35 respondents, 80 participants

- (1) How adequately did the presentations cover what you consider to be the key aspects of family violence?
- |                   |    |       |
|-------------------|----|-------|
| Very Adequately   | 6  | 17.2% |
| Adequately        | 28 | 80.0% |
| No Opinion        | -  | -     |
| Inadequately      | 1  | 2.8%  |
| Very Inadequately | -  | -     |
- (2) What omissions in the subject matter were there?
- crisis intervention skills
  - more on local community response to family violence
  - need discussion of poverty as socio-economic violence
  - more on solutions, prevention of family violence
  - more on support systems for males in violent family
  - sibling abuse
  - husband battering
  - incest
  - psychological/mental abuse
- (3) Rank in order of importance what for you were the most important items discussed.
1. Wife battering
  2. Child abuse
  3. Indicators and intervention skills
  4. Legal approaches to family violence
  5. Resources available
- (4) What, for you, was the most important information gained?
- overview of family violence
  - understanding why women stay in a violent situation
  - knowledge of other community agencies, how they work, how we can utilize them
  - how the child abuse team works
  - extent of people concerned about the issue of family violence
  - open discussion of incest
  - learning that alcohol is not a cause but a factor in abuse
  - teamwork possibilities with other professions and services
  - legal aspects
  - crisis assistance
- (5) What aspects of family violence do you think should have been given greater attention?
- sibling violence
  - intervention skills
  - more on why men batter and how to help them
  - more on effects of violence on other members of the family
  - more on local solutions

- (6) What new directions or changes will you be attempting to set in motion as a result, at least in part, of your participation in the workshop?
- will attempt to work more closely with other agencies
  - more empathy in my contact with clients
  - starting a batterer's group
  - develop women's support groups
  - working towards getting a transition house in the community
  - develop and co-ordinate more community resources
  - work towards setting up a crisis centre
  - develop a marriage training program - family guidance groups
- (7) What would you like to see happen as follow-up (specify the topic, the issue, the action strategy and who you think should be responsible).
- transition house
  - would like to see public more aware of the help that is available to them and how they can use it
  - would like to see professionals encouraged to act on child abuse prevention
  - MHR workshop on prevention through family counselling or therapy
  - needs to be more daycare funding
  - support group for professionals working in this emotionally taxing area
  - more information for lay people
  - integrated approach to referral and protection
- (8) In what ways can you help to disseminate the information discussed at this workshop?
- will do so through my workplace
  - will become more actively involved in community groups
  - through personal contacts
  - will do public speaking on the issue
- (9) Other comments.
- "very positive and well organized"
- "feminist-sexist perspective too predominant"
- "all of the material really hit me personally and I enjoyed listening and learning"
- "important that people giving the workshop realize that the problems of family violence are not unknown to us but there is little to offer those in need here"
- "would have liked to have attended more than one workshop"

Task Force on Family ViolenceResource Material and Publications

- \* Family Violence resource list for the Lower Mainland with telephone numbers and brief description of services for battered women and abused children. (Revised Fall, 1978)
- \* Child Abuse/Neglect Newsletter, distributed province-wide. (Four issues to date)
- \* Family Violence Information packet.
- \* Reprinted articles, handouts and bibliographies on the subjects of wife battering and child abuse.
- \* Legal Process for Battered Women (1979) - a handbook designed as a guide to family and criminal law and court procedures for people working with battered women.
- \* Report of the Task Force on Family Violence (1979) including Task Force recommendations.
- \* Media Productions: Media consultant Peg Campbell, under the auspices of the Task Force on Family Violence, produced the following:
  - \* A Sign of Affection? and Rule of Thumb: two half-hour black and white video tapes on the subject of battered women.
  - \* A series of ten half-hour programmes designed for radio and classroom use on family violence subjects, including legal aspects, sexual abuse of children, resources and recommendations for future action.
  - \* A Common Assault: three 10 minute sound-slide presentations in six languages besides English describing social and legal services available to immigrant families, including emergency response, Transition House and Family Court. Pamphlets, also in translation, are available for distribution to viewers.

## For information contact:

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 V6J 1T9  
 Telephone: (604) 731-7781

To borrow A Common Assault contact:

MOSAIC  
 1161 Commercial Drive  
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 V5L 3X3  
 Telephone: (604) 254-9626

**END**