

## Being United for A Better World for Women

Summer 2008

This newsletter provides a forum for resource and information sharing, primarily between regional networks of the Provincial Partnerships in Action committee and other stakeholders invested in women's issues in New Brunswick. You, the readers, are also contributors as you have the opportunity to share new programs, community events and other information relating to women's issues and service provider wellness. Please take this opportunity to share this newsletter by forwarding it to others in your own networks!

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### Message from the Director of the Violence Prevention Unit

As the new Director of the Violence Prevention Unit, I would like to welcome you to this issue of Communities Connecting.

A member of the public service for nearly 20 years, I hope to bring my experience in program development, policy analysis, project management and stakeholder collaboration to these initiatives. I realize that violence against women is a complex issue and that it will take time to become fully acquainted with these files, nonetheless, I look forward to learning more about this issue and the solutions being developed in New Brunswick.

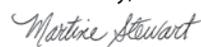
Being committed to creating a better world for women at every level is key. Women's health and safety are essential as is timely access to relevant and appropriate services. It is imperative that women know there are individuals, organizations and networks that are placing violence prevention as a focal point for action. This is something that the Provincial Partnerships in Action Committee, as an example, works hard to achieve.

This committee has realized many successes, in part because each person brings something different to the table. I am very encouraged by this and want to be part of a network that moves the issues and solutions forward. By bringing people together who think and work differently, this committee creates unique solutions to the issues women face in our society.

Fostering relationships and continuing our work in collaboration with each other is so vital to our future. I am excited about the work being done, and I look forward to meeting the people that are moving this work forward and the promising opportunities that lie in our future.

I am engaged in contributing to the fulfillment of the Better World for Women vision whereby all New Brunswick women must live in a secure, nurturing environment free of abuse and violence.

Sincerely,



Martine Stewart

Director of The Violence Prevention Initiative

## Upcoming Events

### Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Training: Sept. 15-19, 2008

Train-the-Trainer format and a unique opportunity for service providers to receive training with only a minimal cost! If you want to help end sexual assault in your community and can train others in your organization, contact Jenn at 452-6986 or through email at [j.richard@nb.aibn.com](mailto:j.richard@nb.aibn.com)

### Healthy Relationships-Healthy Communities:

A one day mini-conference: Aug. 21, 2008. Dr. William Glasser and Jonathan Erwin, M.A. will be in Moncton to speak on the subjects of Reality Therapy, Choice Theory, and Lead Management. For more information, or to register, please contact Douglas Jones at [dljones@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:dljones@nbnet.nb.ca)

## News from the Women's Issues Branch



### Laura's New Brunswick Farewell:

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Laura Hamilton. I have been with the Women's Issues Branch (WIB) for a little over two years as a Research and Planning Officer. I was hired as an intern after finishing my BA in psychology at the University of New Brunswick, and then was kept on after my internship finished. I have had the privilege of watching the WIB grow and our provincial partners accumulate many beautiful successes.

As I am going back to school in the fall to pursue my masters in occupational therapy, I just wanted to say how much I have appreciated my time at the WIB, as well as with the Provincial Partnerships in Action Committee.

You are all very special people, and have left a warm impression on my heart. I am proud and amazed by the work that is being accomplished in New Brunswick. You can be sure that I will take and spread the message of a life free of violence and full of peace for women in all my future travels.

Sincerely,

*Laura*

# Stitching Solutions



## New Brunswick's Provincial Family Violence Prevention Quilt

The provincial violence prevention quilt is starting to take shape!! Thank you to everyone who have already submitted a quilt square. If you are thinking of making a quilt square there is still time! Please send one in! The participants at the May 2008 Empowerment Session did a wonderful job of stitching a border around the centre of our quilt, and the quilt is now starting to be stitched together! But don't worry, we've been told there's always room for more squares! In fact students from the Grande Rivière School in Saint Léonard have made a whole quilt about violence against women! Congrats and happy quilting!

If you would like more information or to help put the quilt together please contact: [jennifer.kelly@gnb.ca](mailto:jennifer.kelly@gnb.ca) . To submit blocks for the provincial quilt, please send them to:

Women's Issues Branch  
Sartain MacDonald Building  
PO Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 5H1

## What's New: Highlights from the Violence Prevention Unit

The Violence Prevention Unit, within the Women's Issues Branch, is still actively committed to working with communities and other government departments to address family violence issues. We are happy to present the following updates:

- For the 2007/2008 fiscal year, we processed 24 applications for the Better World for Women Community Action Fund program and approximately \$30 000 dollars were granted across the province for approved projects. The 2008/2009 fiscal year seems to be even busier. Many applications are coming in for project funding.
- The Provincial Partnerships in Action (PPA) three-day workshop on empowerment and women-centeredness in our services took place in May in Moncton. All together there were 80 participants.
- In addition to the daily tasks, we are still actively involved in various established committees including Public Awareness Campaign, Women and Girls at Risk, and Comprehensive Strategy against Sexual Violence.
- The Women's Issues Branch Violence Prevention Unit underwent some changes in their staff. Goodbyes have been said to two of its members that have moved on in other directions. In June, the director of the Violence Prevention Unit, Lise Bellefleur, who played a forefront role in the development of the first and second action plan "A Better World for Women" moved on to the department of Public Safety. The Branch said another goodbye to Laura Hamilton who left to pursue her studies in Alberta after 2 years of service. We would like to thank both of them for all their commitment and dedication and wish them success for their new undertakings. The Branch will miss them.

We continue as before with projects in progress. With regard to the future, we are pleased to announce that Martine Stewart, from the Department of Social Development, joined the Management team at the Women's Issues Branch as director of the Violence Prevention Unit. Welcome, Martine!

# Outreach Corner

## *Domestic Violence Outreach – Saint John, NB*

Domestic Violence Outreach in Saint John, NB is committed to providing free, confidential, non-judgmental, and equally accessible services offered in a safe and secure environment. Individuals experiencing domestic violence have access to short term counselling, safety planning, guidance to identify and access options and community services. Additionally, Domestic Violence Outreach provides information sessions and workshops throughout the community, acts as a liaison with community agencies and offers on-site visits with other community organizations to work to improve the lives of individuals affected by violence. Domestic Violence Outreach is supported in the community by the Atlantic Health Sciences Corporation (AHSC) as well as the Domestic Violence Community Action Group (DVCAG) which is led by the Outreach Worker and comprised of a variety of professionals and community members devoted to the eradication of domestic violence. The DVCAG has been an active community network since 1997 and is currently supporting the implementation of the Roots of Empathy Program in partnership with the District 8 Education system, as well as the Saint John *Moving Forward* Program: A Concurrent Group Program for Children Exposed to Woman Abuse and their Mothers.

For more information or to access services, please phone the Domestic Violence Outreach Coordinator in Saint John at **(506) 632-5616**.

## *Outreach Network*

The Outreach Network has recently been formed in partnership with the Women's Issues Branch and is currently comprised of fourteen Outreach Workers throughout the Province of New Brunswick. The Outreach Network is a new initiative designed to support Outreach Workers by providing networking opportunities, support, and troubleshooting, as well as sharing resources, tools, and information on "what works". In addition to creating provincial awareness, the Outreach Network supports the development of comprehensive linkages for service by working to eliminate gaps in service delivery throughout the province. The Outreach Network will conduct formal meetings once or twice per year and will be held at different locations throughout the province, hosted by the regional Outreach Worker.

## *What's happening at the Miramichi Outreach Services?*

### **Miramichi Family Violence Prevention Committee**

April 1<sup>st</sup> we received our new part time worker to coordinate the mom's and kid's group. She will do presentations, take referrals and do the assessments.

We finished another women's group in May that was very successful. We had only but great comments and experience from the group and we're already working on our next one in September.

We partnered with Public Legal Education and Information Services of New Brunswick (PLEIS-NB) to pilot a Family Violence Prevention Campaign, particularly designed for rural areas, to develop bilingual products and education tools on animal abuse and guns. We will be going to different places or festivals to promote and distribute information.

In May we did a Healing Through Art session on the weekend for 2 days. What a great experience, and the art work the women did was wonderful! We had an art teacher give us painting tips.

May 29 & 30 we had a Strategic Planner to come in and help. We had the Family Violence Network committee there for the first day and we had 17 people around the table to help determine what we needed to achieve.



# Marg's Corner



On May 26, 2008, the Advisory Committee on Violence Against Aboriginal Women presented its Strategic Framework to Minister Schryer. The Committee, comprised of Aboriginal women from around the province, worked for close to two years developing a very comprehensive framework. It lays out the current situation of Aboriginal women, contributing factors to violence against Wabanaki women, and recommended strategies for action in the areas of capacity building, prevention and education, and service delivery.

The Introduction to the Framework explains that “New Brunswick is part of the traditional territory for the Mi’kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy peoples, who are three of the five nations that form the Wabanaki Confederacy. These nations are the ones who first see the light rising each morning, and “Wabanaki” describes this process of dawn breaking. For the purposes of this Strategic Framework, this document refers to Wabanaki women. However, there are women from other nations living in this territory. This strategic framework is intended to include these Aboriginal women so that they may also enjoy lives free of violence.” (A Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Wabanaki Women in New Brunswick)

Factors identified as contributing to violence against Wabanaki women are colonization, gender bias and racism, poverty, addictions, housing and property issues, and the normalization of violence. Aboriginal women are three times more likely to experience spousal abuse than non-Aboriginal women and the violence tends to be much more severe. 54% of Aboriginal women who had experienced abuse reported that they had been beaten or choked, had a gun or knife used against them, or had been sexually assaulted; 33% feared for their lives. (General Social Survey on Victimization, Statistics Canada) The General Social Survey also found that Aboriginal people are twice as likely as the non-Aboriginal population to report non-spousal violence in and around the home. “In *Domestic Sex Trafficking of Aboriginal girls in Canada: Issues and Implications*, Anupriya Sethi (2007) states that ‘75% of Aboriginal girls under the age of 18 have experienced sexual abuse, 50% are under 14, and almost 25% are younger than 7 years of age’ In New Brunswick communities, anecdotal evidence indicates that this is also an issue, with adolescent girls often trading sexual favours for transportation, especially for those living in rural areas; other practical needs; or, drugs.” (A Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Wabanaki Women in New Brunswick)

One of the top 10 recommendations put forward by the Advisory Committee was that the Women’s Issues Branch hire a provincial Aboriginal Coordinator to undertake and coordinate the work necessary to address violence against Wabanaki women and children. At the meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> the Minister agreed to this recommendation and directed the Women’s Issues Branch to begin the hiring process. This was exciting news for these Aboriginal women. The Advisory Committee will continue to meet to provide advice to government and to monitor progress over time.

# Let's Network

- **Online Counselling for Abused Women:** Sheltersnet has received \$642,658 from the Government of Canada to launch a project called Online Counselling for Abused Women. It is an eCounselling service, whereby Sheltersnet puts women and transition houses in contact for follow up counseling through the use of the internet. For more information contact Laura Babcock at (905) 466-3010 or by email at [powergroup@bellnet.ca](mailto:powergroup@bellnet.ca)
- **Support Enforcement Act:** Legislation came into effect on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 that provided more tools for the Family Support Order Service (FSOS) when dealing with people who are behind on their support payments. Visit the link below to find out what recourse the FSOS now has when enforcing support orders: <http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/jus/2008e0168ju.htm>
- **Government of Canada Budget 2007 - Elder Abuse:** resources were increased for the New Horizons for Seniors programs by \$10 million! Take a look at the rest of the Canadian budget for Supporting the Vulnerable at <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2008/plan/chap4a-eng.asp>
- **Canadian Federation of University Women:** Education, Women's Equality, Human Rights They even have scholarships and grants! Visit them today at [www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org)



## Virtual Destinations

[BullyingCanada.ca](http://BullyingCanada.ca):



Express Yourself! [BullyingCanada.ca](http://BullyingCanada.ca) wants to hear from people who have witnessed others being bullied, have bullied or were bullied by someone. The site is the first anti-bullying Canadian website created by youth. They want to hear what youth have to say about bullying either through stories or poems. Anonymous by request. You can also visit their website to read submissions by other youth. If you would like to submit an article or poem, email them to [Info@BullyingCanada.ca](mailto:Info@BullyingCanada.ca) or fax it to **506-546-4360**, attention **Robert Frenette**.

# Exploring the Links: Firearms, Family Violence and Animal Abuse in Rural Communities

A new research study shows that abused rural women face a significant risk of firearms victimization that often includes threats or harm to pets and farm animals. The study, conducted by Drs Deborah Doherty and Jennie Hornosty, found a strong correlation between abused women's heightened fears of harm and the presence of firearms. Using both qualitative and quantitative research methods, the researchers examined the presence and effects of firearms in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, where actual or threatened violence towards women, children, property or animals was involved. In homes with firearms, 70 percent of women surveyed said that it affected their help-seeking behaviour and nearly half of pet-keeping women said their partners had purposefully harmed or threatened their pets or farm animals. Interviews and focus groups with abused women, service providers and community put a face on these statistics. Descriptions of firearms abuse included direct threats of death, forced sexual activity at gunpoint, pointing a firearm during an argument, shooting a beloved pet, and having a gun held to their head. It also included indirect threats such as 'I can't live without you and nobody else is going to have you'. The study identified other factors that exacerbated women's fears when firearms were present, including alcohol/drug addictions and mental health problems such as threats of suicide.

Not only does this study shed light on the prevalence of firearms in rural homes and their association with various aspects of family violence, it situates firearms misuse within the social and culture context that shapes experiences and responses, and as a result, offers insights into potential strategies for addressing it. It examined the normative acceptance of firearms in rural communities where guns are seen as a traditional part of rural life associated with peaceful pursuits such as farming, pest control, target practice and hunting. The common perception that hunting rifles and shotguns are not weapons was associated with a fairly widespread, cavalier attitude to laws on registration and safe storage of firearms. This tended to foster a lack of attention to the safety of abused women, in part because there is a high tolerance to firearms abuse in rural homes, even among professionals.

The study provides many recommendations to increase the safety of abused rural women, including removal of firearms in all domestic violence cases, confiscation of firearms for unsafe storage, development of safe haven programs for the pets and farm animals of abused women, development of appropriate risk assessment tools for rural communities, implementation of training and public education strategies that identify the dimensions and forms of firearms victimization.

For more information or to obtain the executive summary of this study, contact the co-principal researchers.

Dr. Deborah Doherty  
Co-Principal Researcher  
Executive Director  
Public Legal Education and  
Information Service of NB  
[deborah.doherty@gnb.ca](mailto:deborah.doherty@gnb.ca)  
Phone: (506) 453-7958  
Fax: (506) 462-5193

Dr. Jennie Hornosty  
Co-Principal Researcher  
Professor of Sociology  
Department of Sociology  
University of New Brunswick  
[hornosty@unb.ca](mailto:hornosty@unb.ca)  
Phone: (506) 458-7445  
Fax: (506) 453-4659

(Note: The study received Research Ethics approval from the University of New Brunswick and was funded by the Canada Firearms Centre over the period 2005-2008. Research partners in the study included all the transition houses in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, Victim Services in Prince Edward Island, the Chief Firearms Officers in both provinces, Victim Services of the Fredericton City Police and Codiac RCMP in New Brunswick, and the RCMP "J" Division.)

# Helping Those Abused by Their Same Sex Partner

Intimate partner violence occurs in same sex relationships as well as heterosexual. About 5-10% of the total population identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or two-spirited (LGBTs). It is likely that as service providers to women who experience abuse, you will or have worked with clients who are LGBTs. Sometimes you'll be aware of your client's sexual orientation or gender identity, other times you will not. There are things you can do with all clients to ensure that your practice is respectful.

It may not be prudent to ask a client directly about her sexual orientation or gender identity. Sometimes it's not important that you know, however the more fully you understand a woman's experience, the more effective your help can be. Heterosexism pervades the social and cultural foundations of many institutions and traditions and is an additional challenge faced by many LGBTs persons. It can have significant impact on their experiences of abuse. In this context, it may be extremely valuable to explore the implications of heterosexism in your client's life. Avoiding inadvertent acts of heterosexism can prevent re-victimization of a person who has experienced abuse.

How will you know if a client identifies as LGBTs? If you're providing services respectfully and compassionately, and issues of heterosexism are relevant to her experience, she'll probably tell you. Every client deserves and benefits from service provision that is respectful of gender and sexual diversities. You can begin by banishing assumptions and using inclusive language. (Ex-)partner, lover or other gender non-specific terms more accurately reflect all women's realities than terms like husband or boyfriend, that may have inappropriate connotations for heterosexual women as well. Likewise, the words: he, him and his can be replaced by: s/he, her or him and his/hers on intake forms and in conversations with clients. Avoiding assumptions about women's roles based on gender stereotypes is another strategy that will benefit all your clients.

Inclusive language will increase the likelihood that a more diverse array of clients will feel their realities are respected and feel secure enough to share with you more fully. If a woman does "come out" to you, she may not appreciate an overly enthusiastic reaction. A relaxed response, showing your appreciation of her open sharing, will let your client know that you are respectful of her identity rather than shocked or startled. From there the client can lead you on how much to explore issues of gender identity and sexual orientation in your work together.

Your own sexual orientation and gender identity are also relevant to the helping relationship and can influence the counseling process. Your personal beliefs and attitudes about gender and sexuality can unconsciously shape the way you interact with someone who is LGBTs. If you are uncomfortable or do not feel competent to practice with someone who is LGBTs, you can look for other workers with more experience or greater comfort to refer to. Some clients would prefer to work with someone who also identifies as LGBTs, so if you know a worker who does, perhaps you can ask her/him to be a referral site.

Most of all, we must always remember that every woman is unique and the helping process continues to be dynamic and ever changing. Along the way we will surely make a few mistakes. As long as our client's best interest is at heart and we are constantly striving to better our services, we must be able to forgive ourselves for our imperfections and allow them to be our teachers.

The following link will take you to a webpage with further tips for practice: <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/glbtproviders.htm#tips>. This site is designed for healthcare providers, but applies well to other helping professions.

# Old Tools, New Twists

When addressing the problem of violence against women, various tools/models including women centered and holistic approaches, The Power and Control Wheel, gender based analysis, to name only a few, are used by service providers and other interest groups. Another tool, worth sharing, that could provide a new way of looking at challenges of violence against women across class, ethnicity, culture and sexuality is called the *Inclusion Lens*. Many of you have maybe already heard about it but never had a chance to use it. Here is your opportunity to give it a try.

## What is an Inclusion Lens?

The *Inclusion Lens* is a workbook designed by Health Canada to help groups conduct analysis of legislation, policies, programs, and practices to determine whether they promote the social and economic inclusion of individuals, families, and communities.

This comprehensive tool is based on foundational values of social justice and valuing diversity which stands for the recognition and respect for the diversity of cultures, races, ethnicity, languages, religions, abilities, age, and sexual orientation as well as valuing all contributions of both women and men to the social, economic, and cultural vitality of society.

## Using the *Inclusion Lens* Workbook

The *Inclusion Lens* (workbook) can be used by a variety of groups. It contains a description and illustration of the elements of inclusion and exclusion and their relation to various dimensions including: cultural, economic, functional, participatory, physical, political, structural, and relational. A template and questions about inclusion and exclusion are also provided in the workbook to use as a guide.

Like any model, the list of elements provided in the workbook is not intended to be a complete list, but to stimulate users to adapt it to their particular situations. Some of the elements

may relate to more than one dimension and additional elements may also be identified.

When using the workbook, you are encouraged to create your own inclusion lens and to answer the included questions using a participatory process that involves people who are excluded.

This is a wonderful tool to use to begin a dialogue with excluded groups, raise awareness about how exclusion works, and identify steps to move towards more inclusive policies, programs, and practices that respond best to the needs of disadvantaged population of women in all their diversity.

The workbook can be downloaded at the following address: [http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/canada/regions/atlantic/Publications/Inclusion\\_lens/inclusion\\_2002\\_e.pdf](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/canada/regions/atlantic/Publications/Inclusion_lens/inclusion_2002_e.pdf)

*Source: An Inclusion Lens: Workbook for Looking at Social and Economic Exclusion and Inclusion. 2002. Produced by Malcolm Shookner, Population Health Research Unit, Dalhousie University, for the Population and Public Health Branch, Atlantic Regional Office, Health Canada*



## In the L00p



**Quick Bit :** A cheque was recently presented to the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre by Minister Schryer (Minister of Social Development, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women). The funds stem from the commitment in the action plan *A Better World for Women: Moving Forward 2005-2010* which allotted resources to the development and improvement of access to sexual assault services in the province. The Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre is a key partner in this initiative. ( Pictured above from left to right: Rick Myles, MLA for Fredericton-Silverwood; Lorraine Whalley, Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre; Minister Schryer)

### La fondation Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation:

The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation is accepting proposals for funding from registered charities, for projects dealing with the problem of family violence. The organizations selected will be awarded a grant, to a maximum of \$3,000 to undertake projects in areas including counseling, training, public education and educational research.

To be considered for funding, the proposal project must fall into one of the following categories: the operation of emergency shelters and the provision of counseling and other services to victims of family violence; the development of counseling and training programs for the education of counselors working with victims of family violence; the development of public education programs about family violence; the support of educational research into the causes of family violence, and to assist with the education and training of victims of family violence.

The deadline for receiving applications is **Thursday, August 21, 2008.**

The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation is a charitable organization committed to eliminating family violence and to relieving the suffering of those affected. For more information please visit our website: <http://www.mmff.ca/mmff/en/programs/grants.aspx>

### New & Updated Legal Information Publications

Public Legal Education and Information Services of New Brunswick (PLEIS-NB) has released a revised publication, *"Before Getting Married... Be Sure Your Home is Loving and Safe"*, which encourages people thinking about marriage to consider the nature of their relationship and be aware of the warning signs for family violence.

This summer, PLEIS-NB will also be releasing the following updated or new publications:

- Victims of Family Violence: Testifying in Criminal Courts
- Ending Abuse in Your Relationship: A Woman's Roadmap to Empowerment
- Specialized Domestic Violence Approach in Provincial Court
- Resolving Complaints about Policing Services in New Brunswick: The New Brunswick Police Commission
- Accommodating Students with Disabilities
- The Office of the Public Trustee: Protecting the Personal and Financial Interests of Vulnerable Persons
- Moving Forward: A Community-based Group Program for Children (4 – 16 years) and Their Mothers to Promote Healing from the Effects of Woman Abuse

PLEIS-NB is a non-profit organization that seeks to educate and inform the public about the law. PLEIS-NB receives funding and in-kind support from Justice Canada, the New Brunswick Law Foundation, and the New Brunswick Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of these publications can contact PLEIS-NB at [pleisnb@web.ca](mailto:pleisnb@web.ca); 506-453-5369, or check out our website at [www.legal-info-legale.nb.ca](http://www.legal-info-legale.nb.ca).



**The Comité de la Violence Familiale du Nord-Ouest Inc. (CVFNO)** is a coalition of partners with the mandate of raising awareness in the community and among persons affected by the social phenomenon of family violence. It is our privilege to offer various services to the residents of northwestern New Brunswick.

- 1- *Moving Forward* is a community-based group program for children (4 to 16 years) and their mothers to promote healing from the impacts of woman abuse. For more information or to participate in the program, simply contact **Mélanie**, program coordinator, at **506-263-1119** or **506-740-1121**, or send a text message to **melanielstonge@hotmail.com**.
- 2- The Outreach program is for female victims of family or relationship violence. The service is free and confidential. The program is offered Monday to Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and in the evenings (by appointment only), from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Contact **Martine** at **506-263-0888** or **506-740-4888** or send a text message to **martine.th@live.ca**.
- 3- A youth violence awareness program will be implemented at Cité des Jeunes A.-M.-Sormany in September 2008. This program, through the CVFNO, aims to educate young people to recognize violent and unacceptable behaviour. For more information, contact **Édouard** at **506-735-2249**.
- 4- A CVFNO subcommittee, the Réseau communautaire Nord-Ouest – Réponse au problème de l'agression sexuelle (Response to sexual assault), has an outreach program for women who are living or have lived through a violent relationship or who are seeking support after being sexually assaulted.

This year, we plan to do the following through student projects:

- Take an inventory of the literature and documentation in the field available in the region, the province, and on the Internet; index and classify the documents in a database in order to develop a documentation centre eventually;
- Develop a pamphlet and prepare documentation for a public awareness campaign;
- Plan and implement a mutual self-help group program;
- Plan training for community workers, natural caregivers interested in offering support and accompanying survivors, and professionals who wish to develop their intervention skills with sexual assault victims and survivors.

For further information, contact **Fernand Sirois**, project manager, at **737-3012** or **737-1765**, or send a text message to **fernansi@nbnet.nb.ca**

- 5- The CVFNO also plans, through its Promotional Activities component, to raise awareness and educate the community about family violence by promoting better access to resources. The following activities are proposed: making placemats and brochures to increase the visibility of the resources available in the Northwest, participating in community activities, and raising public awareness through the media.

# Wage Gap Action Plan scholarship recipients announced

A total of 44 women and nine men were awarded the Wage Gap Action Plan Scholarship for 2008. Another five scholarships will be awarded in the fall to students attending New Brunswick Community College-contracted non-traditional training programs. The scholarship was established to encourage men and women to examine non-traditional careers. The goal of the scholarship program is to reduce the influence that job clustering has on New Brunswick's wage gap. Each scholarship has a maximum value of \$2,600. This is equivalent to one-year full tuition at New Brunswick Community College, with up to \$150,000 in scholarships being awarded each year. For more information on the Wage Gap Action Plan Scholarship, visit [www.nbcc.nb.ca/](http://www.nbcc.nb.ca/).

## Progress being made in reducing New Brunswick's wage gap

Significant progress is being made in reducing the wage gap between men and women, according to the second annual progress report on New Brunswick's five-year Wage Gap Action Plan. The report was tabled in the legislature by Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mary Schryer. "Reducing the wage gap benefits our entire province, but it can only be achieved if everyone takes part," Schryer said. "By working together to end the wage gap as part of our effort to achieve self-sufficiency, our children will be able to live and work in a progressive, forward-thinking New Brunswick where gender equality in the workplace is not an issue." Download the progress report on New Brunswick's five-year Wage Gap Action Plan at [www.gnb.ca/wagegap](http://www.gnb.ca/wagegap).

## New to our website

Wage Gap Reduction Initiative eNews (Summer 2008), visit [www.gnb.ca/wagegap](http://www.gnb.ca/wagegap).



## Among our Favorite Spaces

Thirty-five kilometers from the New Brunswick mainland in the Bay of Fundy lays the island of Grand Manan. With its cozy fishing villages, Anchorage Provincial Park and beautiful coastline, there is so much to see and do!

You can hike out to the Swallowtail Lighthouse, explore the Hole in the Wall rock formation, bike the quiet roads of the island, take a whale or sea bird watching excursion or go kayaking, just to name a few activities!

If you have some time, why not camp at one of the campgrounds located in the provincial park or owned privately on the island. There are also crafts and interesting places to eat on the island. You can even try out the island delicacy, a dark purple seaweed called Dulse! All this, only a beautiful ferry ride away. For more information visit:

<http://www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca/product.aspx?pid=246>

If you have any comments, events or articles you'd like to submit to the newsletter, please feel free to contact the Women's Issues Branch:

Tel: (506) 453-8126 Fax: (506) 453-9799  
Sartain MacDonald Building  
PO Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 5H1

Email: [jennifer.kelly@gnb.ca](mailto:jennifer.kelly@gnb.ca)  
We look forward to hearing from you!

