

FAMILY SERVICES of PEEL



Sam and Renee, two of Family Services of Peel's summer students

Women's History Month

Violence against women is a grave social issue that continues to pervade countries the world over and evidently, Canada is no exception. This issue hinders women's ability to sustain a normal, healthy lifestyle, ultimately impeding their progress and preventing them from achieving equal status in society. While significant efforts have been made in recent decades, much work still needs to be done in order to effectively prevent and respond to the violence that persists in both the public and private realms of women's lives.

The Peel Institute on Violence Prevention has been reviewing the ongoing prevalence of violence against women in the Region of Peel, as well as in Canada.



The findings indicate that violence against women has decreased by a comparatively small percentage in the last 30 years despite increased funding into services and programs. So why is it still happening? Why is the decrease not comparative to the resources expended? What strategies do we need to revise? What new approach do we need to consider? These questions should be in the forefront as we tentatively embark on the development of new approaches and answers.

The issue of violence against women was first brought to the public arena by Margaret Mitchell, member of Canadian Parliament, when in 1982 in the House of Commons she stated that one in ten Canadian husbands regularly beat their wives.

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Transforming Lives in Peel



Quarterly Newsletter September 2017

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A Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the fall edition of our newsletter. Most would agree that the weather lately is obviously the summer climate that we never received.

Kids are back in school, Colleges and Universities are in full swing and for some, vacations are a distant memory.

Thanksgiving Day is just around the corner, followed by Halloween. Far too soon, the weather will change with frost in the air and snow on the ground. As we hustle about with our daily routines it is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of life but we still need to slow ourselves down and on occasion, take the time we need to enjoy the company of our families and friends, and give thanks for what we have. As someone once said, "You already have everything that someone else is wishing for."



In our Clients' Words...



"The assistance and support you offer is amazing. Your workshops are invaluable. Not just in finding employment but in regaining confidence and learning new skills. I was amazed at the volume and variety of workshops offered. And your personal help with résumés and coaching, also invaluable. Overall the programs at Family Services of Peel – Employment Ontario are the best and I highly recommend them."

"As a youth facing challenges such as minimal education (I did not complete high school) and lack of work experience, it was a welcome reprieve to find employment with A&S Management Services. My initial task with A&S Management Services was landscaping services. With the assistance of programs offered by Family Services of Peel, I received the opportunity to explore different employment interests and was able to further my education.

A&S Management provided me with flexible work hours and financial assistance, which enabled me to complete my high school diploma. Furthermore, I was introduced to the field of Supply Chain through an A&S Subsidiary, Lame Home Furnishings. I again received full support as I pursued a diploma in Supply Chain and continued to work full time.

I am now pleased to say I have secured a Supply Chain position with a major food company. The programs that Family Services of Peel offers, combined with an outstanding employer such as A&S Management Services, have helped me achieve my goals and for that, I am very grateful."

International Homeless Day

Shelter Life by Shannon Hannivan, 2017

I deserve a better life than this, I woke up, looked in the mirror, and thought 'What is this'? Days keep passing and I'm stuck here in a place full of strangers, with nothing to smile at but the lovely workers when they pass.

Some days it feels like I'm all alone, like a dog without his owner to own him. Some days are rough and difficult, others are a challenge without a house to go to.



On any given night across this vast and rich nation, 35,000 Canadians are homeless. At least 235,000 Canadians experience Homelessness in a year. The national statistics on Homelessness are staggering, epidemic and cut through the fabric of our compassion and our well preserved sense of who we are as Canadians.

Of the 30,000 homeless on any given night in 2013:
3,000 were unsheltered (on the street) | 14,400 were staying in emergency shelters | 7,350 were staying in violence-against-women shelters | 4,464 were in hospitals, jails or other interim facilities.

Source: The State of Homelessness in Canada, 2013

The National Occupancy rates that occupancy at shelters have increased by more than 10% between 2005 and 2014. Most shelter stays are brief, with youths and adults staying on average for 10 days. For adults (50+) and families, the average length of stay is twice as long.

Who is homeless?

The number of older adults (50+) make up 25% of shelter users. 28-34% of Indigenous people access shelters, yet they amount to 4.3% of the Canadian population. 27.3% are women and 18.7% are youth. Although there are not clear measures for tracking people with mental health challenges and people with developmental disabilities, we know, anecdotally, these numbers are increasing at an alarming rate. The lack of an effective national and regional social housing strategy and social policies appear to affect the most vulnerable, most severely.

What contributes to Homelessness?

Many factors contribute to homelessness, such as:

- Unstable employment (part-time, low pay, hours of work, increase in cost of living, cannot maintain housing)
- Unemployment (no savings, no social network, no immediate prospects)
- Supported Housing (time limited, about to be discontinued)
- Evictions (households lack alternative resources, lack social networks and social supports)
- Vulnerability (due to mental health challenges, developmental delay, active addictions and behaviour)
- Division of Household (caused by divorce, separation and housing partnerships)
- Violence/Abuse (domestic and family violence, racism, homophobia)
- Discrimination (against minority and marginalized groups)

Moving Forward

"We know that ending homelessness in Canada requires partnerships across public, private and not-for-profit sectors. It means working upstream to prevent homelessness, as well as providing safe, appropriate and affordable housing with supports for those experiencing homelessness. With support from all orders of government, a commitment to housing as a human right, and evidence-based solutions we can, collectively, prevent and end homelessness." (Excerpt from *The State of Homelessness in Canada 2016* (Stephen Gaetz; Erin Dej; Tim Richter; Melanie Redman))

Article submitted by Tom, Program Manager at Family Services of Peel

Marijoy's Food Blog

In the autumn, I love indulging in warm delicious food, and it helps to fortify me for the impending cold weather. One "comfort food" cuisine that I particular enjoy is Italian because of the many delectable choices, so I'm going to highlight one of my favourite spots... **Terroni!** This casual chic eatery has a classic Italian flare, and has three Toronto locations on Adelaide, Queen, and Yonge at Price. Terroni offers an assortment of appetizers, a variety of pastas, pizzas, cheese, cured meats, and of course, scrumptious desserts. So, you have to give this restaurant a try!

My favourite dishes at this unquestionably delicious restaurant is the **Spaghetti in Canna a Mare** and the **Ravioli di Zucca**. The Spaghetti is an absolute go to if you love seafood. This dish includes



fresh clams and mussels, calamari, scallops and tiger shrimp, and is served in a light tomato sauce. As a cheese lover I was quite disappointed to learn that they don't serve Parmigiano with this pasta in order to highlight the delicate flavours of the shellfish, which follows ancient Italian tradition. However, I was actually quite satisfied with no parmigiana and they were right, I was certainly able to taste all the subtle flavours of the seafood in the divine tomato sauce. It was a burst of seafood goodness in my mouth!

Terroni's homemade Ravioli di Zucca contains mouth-watering roasted

butternut squash and ricotta, with brown sugar, speck, sage and hazelnut. This dish is also topped with truffle, which was a delightful treat to my palette. Whether you choose the stuffed pork, duck confit with roasted butternut squash or the Zucca options, I am confident that your taste buds will not be disappointed.

There are so many other dishes that I could recommend on the exquisite menu, including their assortment of pizzas, mains and desserts, but the Spaghetti and Ravioli are my absolute favourites. Although the three locations are in downtown Toronto, I promise you that the commute will be well worth it, and your taste buds will thank you. Happy Eating!

Marijoy is an employee at Family Services of Peel and an avid "foodie"

Publications

In 2017, the Peel Institute on Violence Prevention produced several papers and reports and two of them were published internationally!



Riutort M., Rupnarain S., Masoud L. **New Roads to Anti-racism, Anti-oppression, and Equity Services for Survivors of**

Violence: Significance of Determinants of Health. The International Journal and Organizational Diversity, Vol 17, Iss 1, June 2017, pp 11-23. Common Ground Research Network.

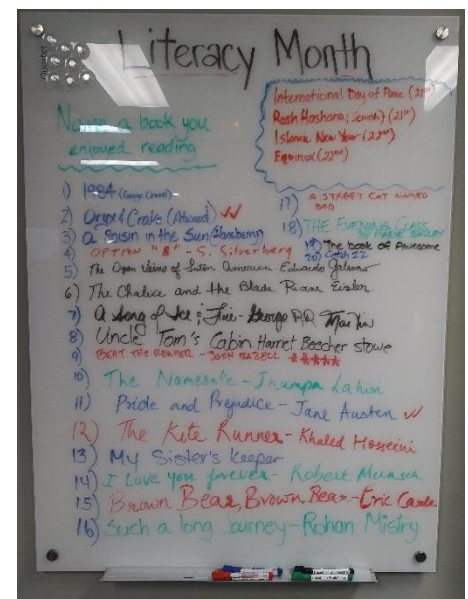


Riutort M., Rupnarain S. **In the quest for equity: violence against women and conscientization through dialogue from a paternalistic to a symbiotic relation with government.** Ecoss de Freire e o Pensamento Feminista: Diálogos e Esclarecimentos. Book published in Porto Portugal, 2017, page 229.

International Literacy Day

Family Services of Peel's theme in September is Literacy Month. In recognition of this theme, as well as International Literacy Day (8th), clients and staff named a favourite

book that they enjoyed reading. As seen below, the list is long and was only curtailed due to limited space on our glass whiteboard.



Women's History Month

(Continued from Page 1)

This sparked a national awareness around domestic violence due to the ensuing ruckus as male members of Parliament erupted in laughter and her angry response was, "this is no laughing matter." When the incident was aired hundreds men and women, got in touch with their MPs, objecting to this attitude towards battered women. Public pressure and the media coverage prompted a House of Commons (Standing Committee on Health) report on domestic violence. Thirty-five years later the government of Canada has spent millions of dollars to pursue a whole range of strategies to deal with violence against women in Canada yet it remains. The most heinous and notable include the following:

In December 1989, 25-old Marc Lépine opened fire at École Polytechnique, killing 14 women, injuring ten women and four men before committing suicide. His suicide note blamed feminists for ruining his life.

According to Amnesty International, "The scale and severity of violence faced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada — First Nations, Inuit and Métis — constitutes a national human rights crisis. Violence against Aboriginal women in Canada continues to be a grave issue. The BC Missing Women Investigation is an ongoing criminal investigation into the disappearance of at least 60 women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside from the early 1980s through 2002. Russell Williams, a former Colonel in the Canadian Forces is a convicted murderer, rapist who targeted women while serving in a prestigious position.

These incidents show that the Government cannot stop violence against women on its own. In fact, 70% of women who experience violence never seek out any assistance. According to Statistics Canada, 2009 General Social Survey (GSS), which is done every five years, 6.4% of women with a current or former spouse or common-law partner reported being physically or sexually assaulted by their partner at least once during the five years. This proportion has not changed since 2004. Spousal violence represented more than half (53%) of all police-reported incidents of family violence in 2007, and 12% of all violent crimes in Canada.

At the macro level, the Department of Justice showed that the economic costs of spousal violence against women is at an estimated \$7.4 billion. The cost of spousal violence against women specifically was estimated at \$4.8 billion. Across Canada, the estimated economic cost to the justice system was \$545.2 million.

Oppression politics would suggest that the reason violence against women continues is due to the short term, crisis oriented, paternalistic and fatalistic approach in working with women. This is reflected in Canadian dogmata and politics, and often unintentionally reinforced by Canadian women who are in positions of power as decision makers and service providers. Consequently, the end result is devastating impacts on organizations that work with women who have or are experiencing violence, and generally, women continue to experience power imbalance and inequitable practices that often creates pathways to abusive relationships.

Article submitted by Monica, Manager, Peel Institute on Violence Prevention

What's NEW?

Monthly Observances

Family Services of Peel celebrates diversity via articles, videos, information sheets, social media, and our glass whiteboard. The following observances will be recognized during the months listed below.

SEPTEMBER

Literacy Month
Eid-ul-Asha (Islam) (1)
Labour Day (4)
Int'l Literacy Day (8)

OCTOBER

Women's History Month
Thanksgiving Day (9)
Int'l Homeless Day (10)
Diwali (Hindu) (18)
Halloween (31)

NOVEMBER

Remembrance Month
Remembrance Day (11)
National Child Day (20)

The following schools are running a **Families and Schools Together** cycle in October 2017:

- Northwood Public School
- Olive Grove School

FAMILY SERVICES of PEEL

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Transforming Lives in Peel

Volume 8 | Issue 3



Quarterly Newsletter September 2017

Mission Statement

Through leadership, collaboration and innovation, we support families and individuals in Peel to transform their lives.

Vision Statement

Transforming Lives in Peel

Values

Responsiveness
 Excellence, Leadership, Innovation
 Service Accessibility and Inclusion
 Partnership and Collaboration
 Engaging Community
 Client Driven
 Transparency

What **Diversity** and **Inclusion** means to Family Services of Peel:

Diversity

The mix

Inclusion

Making the mix work

Sandra Rupnarain (Editor)

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