In the spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous Canadians and non-Indigenous Canadians, and in recognition of the harms that have been caused to Indigenous people since colonization, we, the members of the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan, reaffirm our commitment to acknowledge the rights and obligations resulting from our national character as treaty people. We will support The Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, especially those that speak to services for victims of violence. In the spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous Canadians and non-Indigenous Canadians, and in recognition of the harms that have been caused to Indigenous people since colonization, we, the members of the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan, reaffirm our commitment to acknowledge the rights and obligations resulting from our national character as treaty people.

In This Issue:

- Child Custody Arrangements in SK: 2-3
- History: IWD: 4-5
- Welcome to new board members: 6-7
- Project Updates: 8
- Events: 9
- Stats Canada Report: 10
- Donate to PATHS: 11
- Member Directory: 12

To read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action visit:

[www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca)
With yet another shocking and tragic murder in Saskatchewan, this time a mother of two, we feel it necessary to again address the practice of child custody arrangements in Saskatchewan.

During what was reported to be a routine custody handover in Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan, while their children were nearby, Stacey Lewis’s ex-husband allegedly shot and killed her. While there has been nothing in the media regarding their relationship, we cannot help but wonder if there was previous domestic violence. This, again, begs the questions posed in our last newsletter: should this man have had access to his children? Could this murder have been prevented if Stacey Lewis did not have to have contact with her ex-husband? Why is the history of the perpetrator of violence not being taken into consideration when making decisions on custody?

Currently in Saskatchewan, custody decisions are up to the discretion of the court, with the legislation clearly stating:

The court shall:

8 (b) not take into consideration the past conduct of any person unless the conduct is relevant to the ability of that person to act as a parent of a child.

While Saskatchewan’s language leaves it up to the court’s discretion whether or not the person’s previous history of domestic violence will affect their parenting, Ontario legislation clearly states that a *history of perpetrating domestic violence is relevant to a person’s ability to parent a child/children.*

24(4) In assessing a person’s ability to act as a parent, the court shall consider whether the person has at any time committed violence or abuse against

(a) his or her spouse;
(b) a parent of the child to whom the application relates;
(c) a member of the person’s household; or
(d) any child.
In a UK study titled *Nineteen Child Homicides* researchers looked at the stories of 19 children who were killed by a parent who was a perpetrator of domestic violence relating to child contact. 19 children in 12 families were killed, all by men who were fathers to the children, were known perpetrators of domestic violence, and all had formal or informal access to their children. Through studying these stories the researchers determined 5 key themes:

1. The importance of recognizing domestic abuse as harm to children.
2. Professional understanding of the power and control dynamics of domestic abuse.
3. Understanding parental separation as a risk factor.
4. The way in which statutory agencies interact with families where there is domestic abuse.
5. Supporting non-abusive parents and challenging abusive parents is necessary.

Seemingly, in Saskatchewan, the best interests of the abusive parent take priority over those of the child; if a child is being placed with a parent who has been the perpetrator of domestic violence it is certainly not in the best interest of the child or the non-abusive parent to have contact with them.

From our last newsletter we know that one of the most dangerous times for women is when they are leaving; we also know that abusers will use children in many ways to retain the power and control in the relationship. Studies show it is not safe for children or non-abusers for there to be contact with the perpetrator of violence:

**How many more children and mothers need to be killed in Saskatchewan for our laws to be changed?**

References


³ Bristol, 2016. Nineteen Child Homicides. Women’s Aid
History Lesson: International Women's Day

Information adapted from: https://www.internationalwomensday.com/About

In present day, International Women’s Day is largely associated with recognizing and acknowledging the contributions of women as well as marking a call to action on furthering gender equality. In the beginning, however, International Women's Day was a product of increased labour unrest in the early 1900’s. As industrialization was changing society, pushing more people into urban centres and factories, the rights of the worker emerged as an important socio-political issue.

Below, you will find the timeline journey of International Women’s Day

1908
Great unrest and critical debate was occurring amongst women. Women's oppression and inequality was spurring women to become more vocal and active in campaigning for change. In 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights.

1909
In accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day (NWD) was observed across the United States on February 28. Women continued to celebrate NWD on the last Sunday of February until 1913.

1910
In 1910 a second International Conference of Working Women was held in Copenhagen. A woman named Clara Zetkin (Leader of the Women's Office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany) tabled the idea of an International Women's Day. She proposed that every year in every country there should be a celebration on the same day - a Women's Day - to press for their demands. The suggestion was greeted with unanimous approval and thus International Women's Day was the result.

1911
International Women's Day was honoured the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on 19 March. More than one million women and men attended IWD rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained, to hold public office and end discrimination. 1911 also saw women's Bread and Roses' campaign.

1913-1914
On the eve of World War I, campaigning for peace, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1913. In 1913 following discussions, International Women's Day was transferred to March 8 and this day has remained the global date for International Women's Day ever since. In 1914 further women across Europe held rallies to campaign against the war and to express women's solidarity.
1917
On the last Sunday of February, Russian women began a strike for "bread and peace" in response to the death of over 2 million Russian soldiers in World War 1. Opposed by political leaders, the women continued to strike until four days later the Czar was forced to abdicate and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote.

1975
International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time by the United Nations in 1975. Then in December 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women’s Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States, in accordance with their historical and national traditions.

1996
The UN commenced the adoption of an annual theme in 1996 - which was "Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future".

2011
2011 saw the 100 year centenary of International Women's Day - with the first IWD event held exactly 100 years ago in 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.

2017 and beyond
The world has witnessed a significant change and attitudinal shift in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality and emancipation. Many from a younger generation may feel that 'all the battles have been won for women' while many feminists from the 1970's know only too well the longevity and ingrained complexity of patriarchy. With more women in the boardroom, greater equality in legislative rights, and an increased critical mass of women's visibility as impressive role models in every aspect of life, one could think that women have gained true equality. The unfortunate fact is that women are still not paid equally to that of their male counterparts, women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics, and globally women's education, health and the violence against them is worse than that of men. However, great improvements have been made. We do have female astronauts and prime ministers, school girls are welcomed into university, women can work and have a family, women have real choices. And so each year the world inspires women and celebrates their achievements. IWD is even an official holiday in many countries!

Attend an IWD event in your community!
For a list of events happening around Sask. visit: saskatchewan.ca/swo
In our last newsletter we said “farewell” to two Executive Directors from the PATHS board, as well as one member of our Staff Advisory Committee. This issue we would like to welcome two new Executive Directors to our board!

**Member Profile: Lenore Mossing—SOFIA House**

Lenore, born and raised in Regina, moved to Los Angeles in 1998 and started her career in the Human Services field working in “Skid Row,” which is a 54-block area in downtown Los Angeles that has become synonymous with homelessness and poverty.

Lenore has what she refers to as a Masters Degree from Skid Row University, an education experience unrivaled by any academic organization. As a Program Manager for the Union Rescue Mission, the oldest and largest non-profit mission in the nation, Lenore directed emergency services for people who were experiencing homelessness, battling addictions, mental illness, and domestic violence.

Lenore returned home to Regina in 2012. She continued her work at the YWCA, managing My Aunt’s Place, a shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness and later as Director of Housing for Children, overseeing homes for children in the care of the Ministry of Social Service.

In 2015, Lenore joined the team at Regina Transition House as Operations Manager. She was responsible for program management at the emergency shelter for women and children escaping violence.

In January 2017, Lenore accepted the position of Executive Director at SOFIA House.
Member Profile: Stephanie Taylor—Regina Transition House

Stephanie holds both a Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Social Work and is a registered Social Worker.

Prior to obtaining the Executive Director position at Regina Transition House, Stephanie worked as a caseworker for a group home of youth 16 and over with Ranch Ehrlo Society. Prior to this she was a caseworker at a family focused program for up to 15 year olds. Prior to moving to Ranch Ehrlo Society Stephanie had worked for the Ministry of Social Services in a variety of roles over 6 years starting with frontline work at Dale’s House, then as a permanency planner, then in Resource Maintenance for Child and Family Services.

Stephanie’s work in the area of women’s issues and intimate partner violence began when she was in University where she sat on the Board at the U of R Women’s Centre for 3-4 years. During her undergraduate degree Stephanie completed practicums at Regina Transition House and what was formerly known as the Regina Women’s Community Centre and Sexual Assault line; she had also volunteered on the Sexual Assault Line for several years. Stephanie then sat on the Board with what is now known as Regina Sexual Assault Centre for 10 years, including as Chair.

During her graduate degree Stephanie completed her thesis research and work at the Street Workers Advocacy Project. Her thesis is titled “Violence Prevention with Street Workers: Participatory Action Research with SWAP”. In her research, Stephanie found that an emerging theme was that street workers were experiencing intimate partner violence as a subset of violence within and outside of the context of sex work. Stephanie continues to be connected to SWAP as an advisory committee member.
Project Update

Nato’ we ho win

*Nato’ we ho win* (pronounced “natawayhowin” Cree for “The Art of Self-Healing”) is an innovative program that addresses the mental and physical health needs of women who have experienced intimate partner violence and self-identify as Indigenous. The program consists of trauma-informed, artistic, and cultural programming. Participants will engage in cultural and creative activities to increase stress management skills, social support networks and knowledge of traditional Indigenous culture and to address health and social issues related to colonialism. Evaluation of the project will include both quantitative measures and Indigenous qualitative methods.

*Nato’ we ho win* will include a weekly group (2-hour evening session once per week). The first group will begin in Moose Jaw on March 8, finishing at the end of May.

*Nato’ we ho win* (formerly titled Creative Solutions to Easing Victimization’s Effects) is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada through the Supporting the Health of Victims of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse through Community Programs funding stream.

The Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (CDHPIVP) is conducting a research project to collect information on risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning for four populations identified as experiencing increased vulnerability for domestic homicide:

- Indigenous,
- Immigrants and refugees,
- Rural, remote, and northern populations,
- Children exposed to domestic violence.

The CDHPIVP is looking for people who provide legal, health, educational, advocacy or social services to individuals dealing with domestic violence as victims, perpetrators or children living with domestic/intimate partner violence to complete a brief, confidential online survey about your work, the groups you serve, and the tools you use.

If you agree to participate in this research, you will be asked to respond to a series of online survey questions. The survey is 12 questions long and we anticipate will take you 7-10 minutes to complete. Your responses will be kept confidential and will only be presented in aggregate form. At the end of the survey, you will be asked if you are interested in participating in a 30-60 minute interview by phone or by Skype in the coming months.

To learn more and complete the survey, please go [here](#).
International Women’s Day Gathering
March 8th  12pm—1pm

Join us as we gather in solidarity with the global Women's March movement and in recognition of International Women's Day. Too often women's voices are silenced in the halls of power. We gather to mourn 1200+ murdered and missing Indigenous women. We gather to support victims of sexual assault denied justice. We gather to support all those who experience violence from an intimate partner. We gather to protest the rise of intolerance and hatred.

Bring a sign stating why International Women's Day matters to you.
Wear pink. Bring a friend.

We are meeting on March 8th (International Women’s Day) at noon at oskana kā-asastēki (the buffalo statue) at 12th Avenue & Scarth Street.

We hope to see you there!

Join our Facebook event: https://www.facebook.com/events/1658214117817386/

PATHS, STOPS to Violence, SASS, Regina YWCA, SOPHIA House, and Regina Transition House are teaming up for an International Women’s Day Luncheon

March 29th
12pm-1pm
St. Pauls Cathedral  (1859 McIntyre St)
Guest Speaker: Shana Pasapa
Tickets $15 (limit 100)

To register, visit: http://conta.cc/2lli9a1

To find out more information on the event and our guest speaker please visit our website pathssk.org under events.
Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2015

Last month, Statistics Canada released their report on Family Violence in Canada with data from 2015.

Victims of Police-reported intimate partner violence by province, 2015

- Saskatchewan continues to have the highest rate of Intimate Partner Violence among the Provinces
- The type of violence most often experienced by police-reported Intimate Partner Violence victims was physical force, such as pushing, hitting, or choking

4 out of 5 victims of police-reported Intimate Partner Violence were women

The rate of Intimate Partner Sexual Assault was 36x higher among women than men

To see the full report visit: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/14698-eng.htm
DONATE TO PATHS

Donations help PATHS to conduct research, public education and awareness initiatives, and provide training and resources to our member agencies. PATHS is a Registered Charity and donations over $15 will be eligible for an official donation receipt for income tax purposes.

There are several ways that you can donate to help PATHS conduct our work:
1. Donate online through CanadaHelps.
2. Donate a car through Donate a Car Canada. They accept vehicles for donation— running, or not!
3. Sign up for the Changelt® program, which lets you automatically round up your debit, credit, or mobile wallet purchases and donate the difference. (Search for Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan under “Partners.”)
4. Use your AIR MILES® Cash Miles to donate to PATHS. (Search for Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan under “Browse Charities.”)
5. Complete the slip below and mail to PATHS at Suite 308, 2505 11th Avenue, Regina, SK S4P 0K6.
6. Contact PATHS at (306) 522-3515 or paths@sasktel.net to arrange to donate in person.

Click on the hyperlinks above or visit pathssk.org/donate for links to our donation sites!

I want to donate to the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan!

Name: _____________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________

City: _______________________________ Postal Code: ____________________

Telephone Number: ________________________________

Email Address: ____________________________________________________________

☐ Cheque Enclosed

Please make cheque payable to PATHS

Please mail to PATHS, Suite 308, 2505 11th Ave., Regina, S4P 0K6.

All charitable donations will be acknowledged with a tax deductible receipt.
# The Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Battlefords Interval House</td>
<td>(306) 445-2742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envision Counselling &amp; Support Centre</td>
<td>(306) 637-4004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estevan</td>
<td>(306) 842-8821</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weyburn</td>
<td>(306) 453-2405</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlyle</td>
<td>(306) 483-5555</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Service Regina</td>
<td>(306) 757-6675</td>
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<td>Family Service Saskatoon</td>
<td>(306) 244-0127</td>
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<td>Hudson Bay Family and Support Centre</td>
<td>(306) 865-3064</td>
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<td>Moose Jaw Transition House</td>
<td>(306) 693-6511</td>
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<td>North East Outreach and Support Services</td>
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<td>PARTNERS Family Services</td>
<td>(306) 682-4135</td>
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<td>Piwapan Women's Centre</td>
<td>(306) 425-3900</td>
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<td>Project Safe Haven</td>
<td>(306) 782-0676</td>
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<td>Qu’Appelle Safe Haven Shelter</td>
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<td>Regina Transition House</td>
<td>(306) 757-2096</td>
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<td>SIGN</td>
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<td>SOFIA House</td>
<td>(306) 565-2537</td>
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<td>Southwest Crisis Services</td>
<td>(306) 778-3692</td>
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<td>Waskoosis Safe Shelter</td>
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<td>WISH Safe House</td>
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<td>YWCA Isabel Johnson Shelter</td>
<td>(306) 525-2141</td>
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<tr>
<td>YWCA Saskatoon</td>
<td>(306) 244-2844</td>
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"You should never let your fears prevent you from doing what you know is right"  
- Aung San Suu Kiy