

November 09: In Touch with CCRC (FCSS)

November is a month when we our thoughts typically turn to pay tribute to those who served, and continue to serve our country during times of war; however, I would like to ask that you also show your support for another kind of war - not to take away at all from the importance of November 11th, however, the war I speak of is one that is of a silent nature and is affecting some of our neighbors, friends, and even our own families; Family Violence.

“Family Violence Prevention Month started in 1986 as a local initiative in the town of Hinton, Alberta, where concerned residents launched a family violence education and prevention campaign.

This grassroots effort inspired the Alberta Legislature to support family violence prevention as an ongoing provincial initiative, resulting in the inception of Family Violence Prevention Month. Today, hundreds of Alberta communities and thousands of individuals are actively involved in preventing family violence through education and service provision.”



You may not be aware that the CCRC has also been actively involved in a campaign of this nature beginning in 2008 with the Town’s FCSS departments and other human service providers of Carstairs and Didsbury under project name; Vision 4 Non-Violence. The intention of this partnership was to:

- Mobilize community by facilitating a community action plan process involving key agencies to raise awareness of Family Violence in our communities through provincial Family Violence and Bullying Prevention funding (February 08)
- Help identify and address family violence service gaps in community and help make services easier to reach and use
- Ask local businesses, health clinics, employers, and faith organizations to display family violence awareness information and of local services for those affected by family violence in their locations (March 09)
- Submit regular articles about family violence in our local newspapers (March – May 09)
- Educate committee members and human service providers of learning opportunities on family violence and in diverse relationships (June/July 09) and (Diverse Voices Conference 09)
- Encourage a community stand that family violence and bullying is wrong (signs in windows that state “ELIMINATING FAMILY VIOLENCE IS MY BUSINESS” (March 09)
- Plan a public forum on Family Violence (A Dinner Presentation by; Val Campbell June 11, 09)
- Help children learn non-violent ways of dealing with conflict (“Hands are not for Hitting” window Display at Coop 09)

- Educate young people about dating violence and all other forms of abuse (Inspiring Teens 09)
- Coordinate a Family Violence Prevention Month Campaign (November 08 & 09)
- Start support groups for victims of family violence (Inspiring Change 08)
- Implement programs and services that support those affected by family violence (09-10)
- Promote attitudes and actions that foster health and respectful relationships in the workplace (distribute booklets/resources to business community 09)
- Display information at workplace about family violence and resources that can help victims (08-09)
- Work with community organizations to provide funding for programs and services to help families impacted by family violence (08-09)
- Encourage our local Council(s) to declare November as Family Violence Prevention Month (November 09)
- Promote Family Violence Awareness Month activities such as Purple Ribbon Campaign and Public Service Announcements (CKLJ Radio 96.5 FM (09)

This local project is in concert with this year's Provincial *END the Silence. STOP the Violence* campaign, where Albertans are encouraged to take action to help end the cycle of family violence and find out more about how you can help. One way to help is to start today by wearing a Purple Ribbon alongside your Poppy to show your support in working towards an end this preventable social issue. And watch for more coming your way in your local newspapers, newsletters, and town website.

Contact us with your thoughts via the CCRC confidential direct line @ 337-2633.

Until next time,

Rollin Bowman

Chair: Vision 4 Non-Violence Project Town's of Carstairs & Didsbury