



A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN
UN POINT TOURNANT
POUR LES FEMMES

**Intensive VAW Legal Training Workshop:
Improving Access to Justice for Aboriginal Women**

AGENDA
November 21 & 22, 2012

Wednesday, November 21, 2012

9:00 - 10:30

The Context of Violence in Aboriginal Families

Circle in the Box workshop, Laureen Pawis

10:30 - 10:45

Break

10:45 - 12:45

Knowledge Sharing session

- ED/Rep of each service providing agency describes its work (with an emphasis on services to women experiencing family violence); the relationships it has with Aboriginal nations/communities in the region; what outreach it has done in those communities; what challenges it encounters in delivering services
- Aboriginal leadership/staff identify needs of women experiencing family violence and describe needs and gaps related to working with service providing agencies
- How can agencies work more effectively with Aboriginal women/communities? Can agencies provide a more co-ordinated response/approach to violence experienced by Aboriginal women?
- Discussion of issues/barriers and ideas from front-line worker comments and questions, days #1 and #2

12:45 - 1:30

Lunch

1:30 - 4:00pm (including Break)

Child Welfare and Family Law - Advanced Issues

Marty Rutledge, Executive Director, Family Youth Child Services of Muskoka

- overview/operationalization of Aboriginal specific policies & procedure, with focus on cases involving family violence

- opportunity to address gaps in information

Carrie Campbell

Barrister and Solicitor/ Child Welfare and Family Lawyer

- how can service providing agencies support women in their interactions with child welfare agencies and the family law system

Beth Ward, Executive Director, YWCA Canada & Joanna Birenbaum, facilitator

- identification of child-welfare specific barriers experienced by women in accessing supports in context of family violence

Q & A discussion of child welfare and family law procedure and barriers from the perspective of the Aboriginal representatives and various service providers in the room

Thursday, November 22, 2012

9:00 - 10:30

Criminal Law - Advanced Issues and advocacy

Shelley Tarnowski, OPP, Provincial Co-ordinator, Abuse Issues

Gary Maracle, OPP, Aboriginal Critical Incident Co-ordinator

Alex Malcolm, OPP Bracebridge Detachment

- Description of Aboriginal and family violence protocols, policies and resources
- OPP outreach and efforts to address barriers
- Process for referrals to victim services in Muskoka
- Lessons learned: enforcing peace bonds and restraining orders

10:30 – 10:45

Break

10:45 – 12:30

Aboriginal Capacity Building

Brenda Jackson, Aboriginal Capacity Builder

Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle

- Presentation and Q&A on identifying and establishing the conditions for cultural competency and safety within agencies and organizations;
- Promoting on-going cooperation and resource development to meet Aboriginal peoples' needs;
- Developing protocols for consultation and issues as they affect Aboriginal peoples and communities

12:30 - 1:15

Lunch

1:15 - 2:15

Social Assistance Law - Advanced issues and advocacy

Sue Campbell

Lake Country Community Legal Clinic, Bracebridge

2:15 - 2:30

Break

2:35 - 4:00

Legal Aid - Overview of currently funded services - criminal, family, child welfare, social assistance

Bruce Thomson, Cindy Carswell

Legal Aid Ontario, Barrie