



**YWCA**  
C A N A D A

A TURNING POINT  
FOR WOMEN

UN POINT TOURNANT  
POUR LES FEMMES

**LEGAL INFORMATION WORKSHOP:  
IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR  
ABORIGINAL WOMEN EXPERIENCING FAMILY VIOLENCE**

**AGENDA**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2013**

9:00 – 10:30

**Welcome ceremony**

Dene Elder

Dene Drummers

**Overview and Learning Objectives for the Training**

Joanna Birenbaum, Jeannette Savoie

**The Context of Violence in Aboriginal Families**

[Name] Elder, Sisters in Spirit

10:30 – 10:45

Break

10:45 – Noon

**Discussion: Case Studies**

**Resources: Exercise to Identify Resources for Women, Men, Children, Families**

**Rebecca Latour discusses healing programs for men.**

**Success Stories:** [If time] One or two women are invited to briefly talk about a story in which they successfully supported a woman through one or more of the legal processes covered in this 4-day workshop.

12:00 – 1pm

**Lunch**

1pm – 4:30pm

**Emergency Protection Orders**

Overview of law and procedure

Rebecca and Jeannette

Mock EPO application acted out for group by Jeannette and Rebecca using case scenario #2. This mock exercise would/could involve acting out the phone call to the RCMP/JP by the wellness worker and/or the wellness worker preparing the woman to give evidence.

Exercises for participants:

Goal: Improving the evidentiary basis for applications for EPOs including learning how to describe injuries, the basis for the woman's fear and her risk of exposure to violence/harm.

- (1) Quick exercise: Get participants to pair up and describe each other in 5-6 sentences.
- (2) [Using a photo on the internet of an abused woman with a black eye or bruised face and based on fact scenario #1]: Participants will either split into groups or pairs. One person from each group/pair will role play asking for an EPO for Mary. They will describe the woman's physical injuries and risk of harm and will follow the statutory requirements reviewed.
- (3) Again, using scenario #1, participants will be asked to pair up or split into groups and will role play preparing Mary to give evidence to obtain an EPO.
- (4) One group will role play #2 and #3 for the whole group and facilitators will comment.

Wrap up – closing Q&A and Comments

## **FEBRUARY 20, 2013**

9:00 – Noon

### **Criminal Law**

Overview of criminal law process from charge to sentencing  
Joanna Birenbaum and RCMP representative

Myths and Facts Exercise

(people split into pairs or groups and then reconvene to review answers as a group)

Case Scenario Questions (whole group exercise)

**What criminal offences do you think John might be charged with?**

**What information would you give Mary about the criminal justice process?**

**What particular risk factor(s) for escalated violence are present in this case?**

**What other concerns would you raise with Mary?**

**Who would you refer Mary to, for further information and /or advice?**

**If Mary fought back and was also charged, what information would you give her?**

**Similar questions for Jill.**

Exercise (time permitting): Benefits of contacting police and barriers/complications (this exercise will simply involve two flipcharts which we'll ask people to contribute to for group discussion)

Noon – 1pm

### **Lunch**

1pm – 4:30

### **Child Welfare**

Overview of child welfare law and procedure (Jeannette)

Case Scenario and exercises:

We split the participants into 4 groups. The case scenarios as currently drafted have four separate sets of questions relating to different possibilities in the two scenarios. We have each group address their set of questions and then reconvene to review and discuss.

**February 21, 2013**

**Child Welfare Cont'd**

9:00 – 10:00

Arlene Heche: Child Welfare from VAW Advocate perspective  
Q&A

10:00 – 11:00

Elske Cannam: Child Welfare from CAS Perspective  
Q&A

11:00 – Noon

Exercise and discussion:

Mock interview with a CAS worker with trainers acting as CAS worker, support person and abused woman. Demonstrate how support worker can assist in ensuring discussion is understood by woman and her needs and circumstances are included.

Success Stories: One or two participants can tell a story where they successfully assisted a woman through this legal process.

Noon – 1pm

Lunch

1pm – 4:30pm

**Family Law Overview and Exercises**

Family Law and Procedure Overview (Jeannette)

Exercises:

- (1) As a group: answering the questions posed in the case scenarios
- (2) Preparing a woman for her meeting with a family lawyer. Discussion. Review of tip sheet [Joanna has one from Ontario materials – will email]. Participants pair-up. Role play meeting with Mary and Jill to prepare them for their first meeting with their family lawyer.

## **FEBRUARY 22, 2013**

9:00 – 10:30

### **Housing Law Issues**

Overview of issues and law based on case scenarios

10:45 – Noon or 12:30

### **Wrap Up**

Review of discussion: What is legal information and what is legal advice?

Review of Training:

How will you use what you learned?

How did this training benefit you?

What more would you like to know?

How might you bring the information you learned home to your community?

Discussion of systemic vs. individual advocacy: are there any opportunities for systemic advocacy that occur to you as a result of this training?

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**