

NEWS & VIEWS

June 2007

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NMRC STAFF CUT BY 60%

This article is taken from the press release that was released on April 4, 2007. Effective March 15, 2007, we have laid off Michael Beechey (Program Manager), Angela Olsen (Dad's Program Coordinator), and Theo J. Boere (Executive Director). More details to follow on page 2 under *Adieu!*

As of March 15, the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre has had to lay off 60% of its paid staff due to a lack of funding. "This will significantly reduce our ability to provide services and programs to the community", says the Centre's Executive Director Theo Boere.

A news release by the British Columbia Ministry of Community Services on March 16, 2007 announced that "a total of \$1.2 million to launch violence prevention projects that engage men and boys in preventing violence against women and girls" was granted to community organizations. Most of this money was essentially given to women's organizations to re-educate men and boys about their roles as the perpetrators of violence in our communities.

We now have a multitude of

information and studies, including the last Statistics Canada report on domestic violence, which tells us that domestic violence is perpetrated relatively equally by both men and women. In the last fiscal year, women's organizations received over \$48 million from the Ministry of Community Services to support their programming. **Men's organizations received nothing.** The Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre unequivocally and strongly supports funding for services for women, however we are questioning why women's organizations were chosen to receive project money to "engage men and boys in preventing violence against women and girls". If we as a society believe that men need to be helped, then why aren't men's organizations being given the ability to help men? There is an alarming gender bias in funding for community resources from the Ministry of Community Services.

We have met with the Minister of Community Services and every previous Minister in charge of that Ministry for the last 5 years. They are certainly aware of our presence and

they are clearly aware of the issues. The Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre has evolved over 5 years into the voice of reason for men's issues in the Province of BC and the premier provider of services aimed specifically at men. We are a gender inclusive organization having female employees, female volunteers, female board members, and female clients. It is no longer acceptable in today's society for this Ministry to grant this kind of discriminatory funding.

We are calling on the media and the public to help us with this issue.

Please contact Theo J. Boere, Executive Director at the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre, 250-716-1551 or if you are not local to Nanaimo, 877-716-1551 for more information. We have also set up an email for you to contact us if you would like at supportmen@nanaimomen.com.

What else can you do? You can contact your local MLA and speak with them. You can find their contact information in the blue pages of your telephone book or by visiting the online directory at <http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-2.htm>.

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New Emails for NMRC

All our email addresses have the following format now:

"name"@nanaimomen.com (as shown in List of Contributors in box below this)

And our general mailbox is now:
info@nanaimomen.com

List of Contributors

TJB...Theo Boere
Executive Director
theo@nanaimomen.com

JAL...James A. Latour
Editor
james@nanaimomen.com

JV...Jonathon van der goes
Client Services & Support Coordinator
nmrc_jonathon@shaw.ca

CMJ...CM Justice
Dad's Program Coordinator
cm@naniamomen.com

ADIEU! BUT NEVER GOOD-BYE

JAL

Over the years NMRC has been so blessed by the loyalty and devotion of employees and volunteers that have kept the Centre running and moving in a forward direction. In this edition of News and Views we want to just make mention of some very special people who have left us since the last edition.

As was mentioned on the cover page of this edition, we have had funding cutbacks which resulted in layoffs. Michael Beechey (Program Manager) is one of those affected by the lay offs. Michael has been with the Centre for the past three years. He started like myself, on the Job Creation Partnership, moved through to a Wage Subsidy grant and then into fulltime employment. On a personal note I miss Michael's warm presence in the office. I also miss his technical expertise (especially with our mysterious printer challenges) and his keen ability to write press releases, take care of special events and all the details involved.

Another person who has left the Centre is Angela Olsen. Although Angela has moved on to other opportunities her glowing and positive influence in our environment has been missed. She was with us for

such a short time (only about six months). But in that time she was able to take our Dad's Program from the paper version to the real life version including the mentoring program, prenatal program, and was part of the creative team, including Michael, in producing our very first "Dads Make a Difference" booklet. This excellent resource has been in high demand. We have already given out the first printing and have a second printing in the works. Angela was also involved in the follow-up sessions for Calming Your Anger. We will miss you "showing up awesome".

Theo J. Boere has been the Executive Director of NMRC since the very beginning when NMRC was just a group of men meeting together looking for support. Theo also took layoff so that I could remain employed. For that I am personally grateful. Theo has continued to show his loyalty to NMRC by volunteering his time and furthering the cause by an intense media and political "push" to bring more sustainable funding to NMRC. Theo has told me that it was a very difficult decision for him to have to lay off staff and choose who they

would be.

There are two other individuals that we bid adieu to as well. Two loyal volunteers have left us as well. Val Pelissero has over the last six months volunteered every Wednesday to be at the Centre as our professional counselor. Her passion is to help men with depression issues. She has been here for both men and women. They have seen her as a great asset. Val, thank you for being there for us, and for me in my days of need. Val has left Nanaimo to move back to Alberta to pursue her passion and life calling in the counselling field. Best of wishes in the years to come Val.

Ravenna McColgan has been with the Centre over the past year dealing with clients who have challenges with the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program. She has been very much in demand and since her leaving we have had several calls for her specifically. Ravenna has decided to move into Psychiatric Nursing and has left to start her training in this new field. Ravenna we know that with your intuitiveness that this is a career that you will excel in.

WELCOME TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On June 4th, the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre held its Annual General Meeting (AGM). During that meeting we had updates from the Executive Director, Theo J. Boere on the financial picture of NMRC, the current activities and other items, as well as a year in review.

As has become the custom there was a "sharing circle" during which any and all present could share something about NMRC.

As part of the AGM it was an order of business to elect a new Board of Directors. Our present board all remained. We also had the nomina-

tion and election of three new members. Here is the Board of Directors for NMRC for 2007-2008:

Chairman: Frank Brown

Secretary/Treasurer: Steve O'Neill

Executive Director: Theo J. Boere

Debrah Cossey

Jim Cossey

Clive Michael Justice

Anne Leavitt

Jim Richardson

New Members:

Bill Larose

John Lukaczynski

Mike Sherlock

Our thanks to the Board of Directors for their ongoing support and work with the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre.

??SEPARATED??DIVORCED??

-Share your experiences-

With the Psychology Dept. at Mal-U in conjunction with the
Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre.

PARTICIPATE

In research with separated and divorced men and women

divorce@mala.bc.ca
or
250.740.6187




UNITED WAY - NANAIMO RENEWS FUNDING

We have received word that the United Way of Nanaimo and District that they have agreed to renew our funding for the Family Crisis Support Services.

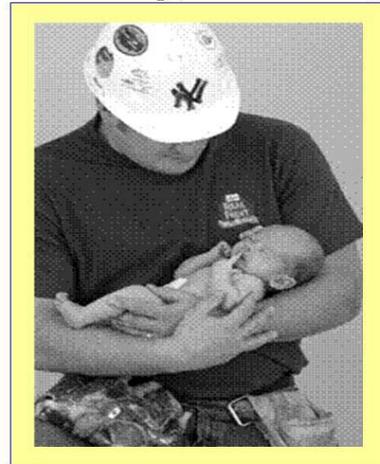
This program has help to temporarily house men, women and children over the past year in Nanaimo.

- We have had a father who needed to spend some time with his non-custodial son at Christmas, but who could not afford accommodation.
- We had a Mom, Dad, and two children housed temporarily when the mother of the Mom become abusive and they had to leave the mother's home quickly.
- We had a man who came into the Centre with a broken hand, black eye and other injuries brought about during a domestic dispute.
- We had a man who was evicted by his long term domestic female partner and we were able to provide him with a place to stay and connect him with the Wrap Around Project to help him find permanent accommodation, damage deposit, utility start up costs, furniture, and job search.

We want to acknowledge The Painted Turtle Guesthouse for their participation in this program. They have provided our people with a warm and hospitable atmosphere.

Dads Make a Difference

Fathers Day, June 17, 2007



Gerry Barman



"Fantasia" - John Hammond
"Roots and original music, steeped in spirit and soul of the blues." - Blues Review

NANAIMO

1- 5 pm
Maffeo Sutton Park

Fun for the Family
Barbequed Hot Dogs
Honoring Dads Ceremony

Exciting African rhythms with
Voodoo Dave McGrath



Men, women & children, bring your drum or homemade percussion instrument & play along

Also appearing folk singer Peter Bourne, Fire trucks, poetry readings and family entertainment.

Bring a soccer ball, a Frisbee, your unicycle or juggling balls and join in the fun!

CONTACT

Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre
250.716.1551
www.nanaimomen.com

Co-sponsored by:
Parents Coalition of British Columbia
www.parentswhocare.ca
Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre

We are taking registrations for Calming Your Anger. We are conducting the workshop on July 6, 7, 8, 2007. If you would like to reserve

your spot in the workshop you must do so quickly. Please call us at 250.716.1551 or email us at info@nanaimomen.com.

CALMING YOUR ANGER:

**Assertiveness,
Boundaries,
and Conflict Resolution**

No Shame, no Blame,
Just Skills to Manage Conflict

We will be holding the workshop at the Bowen Complex. As with our previous workshops, the facilitators are Alan Caplan and Sharon

Bronstein of Life Enrichment Counselling. www.lifeenrichment.ca.

See you there!!!

Are you a member of NMRC yet???

- \$10 Individual (1 Year)
- \$100 Corporate (1 Year)

Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre

418D Fitzwilliam Street
Nanaimo, British Columbia
Canada V9R 3A7

Phone: 250.716.1551
877.716.1551
Fax: 250.716.1557
E-mail: info@nanaimomen.com

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We're on the Web!

www.nanaimomen.com

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-Share your experiences-
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or
250.740.6167



Dads Make A Difference!



You are invited to "Dads Supporting Dads" Your important role as a new father will have a lasting impact on your child.

We provide conversation, information, resources, and other dads!
(Food will also be served)

Men helping families in the best interest of Children



All dads ask questions (these are just a few)

- How do I connect with my child?
- What is my baby trying to tell me?
- How can I relate to my child's mother and effectively support her?
- How can I be the best dad that I can be?
- What happens to my child if my partner and I separate?
- What is discipline all about?
- What do I need to know about this baby business?

Meets every Thursday - 6:00 PM at the Princess Royal Family Centre 260 Irwin St.

Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre
418D Fitzwilliam St., Nanaimo, BC V9R 3A7
(in Zorkin bldg - corner of Richards St.)
Phone 250.716.1551 Fax 250.716.1557
dads@nanaimomen.com www.nanaimomen.com

Parental Alienation Awareness

what happens when parents turn children against parents



presented by The Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre



Parental Alienation Awareness
what happens when parents turn children against parents

This video demonstrates and discusses the devastating effects of Parental Alienation on children, parents, extended family and our society.



Video Includes:

- an interview with psychologist Dr. Larry Waterman
- interviews with parents affected by parental alienation
- dramatic re-enactments illustrating the 3 types of parental alienation
- the influence of courts, lawyers, judges, extended family and society
- an overview of the 3-year of parental alienation
- an analysis of the 3-year of parental alienation
- solutions and a review of the 12 commandments for divorcing parents



Produced by The Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre
scripted and directed by John Ploshch
narrated by Theo Bore, Carmen Barclay and Tara Frenn
www.nanaimomen.com
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Parental Alienation Awareness Video
NOW AVAILABLE!!!
DVD or VHS \$24.95