

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parental Alienation Awareness Day Proclaimed Across Canada

Nanaimo BC April 23 – Wednesday, April 25th has been proclaimed Parental Alienation Awareness Day across Canada.

“Parental Alienation most frequently occurs after parents are separated or divorced.” says Theo Boere, Executive Director of the Nanaimo Men’s Resource Centre, “Children, in response to this situation, can become aligned with one parent and with that parent become preoccupied with criticizing and maligning the other parent. Whether mild or severe, some experts call parental alienation a form of child abuse.

“If left unresolved over a number of years, Parental Alienation can lead to a situation where the children are so alienated that they withdraw completely from the denigrated parent.

“Unfortunately,” says Boere, “because of parental alienation and other factors, we are creating a fatherless society. Most alienated parents are fathers, due to the courts awarding custody to moms in a ratio of about 9 to 1.

“Both the alienated fathers (or mothers) and the kids suffer when one parent loses contact with their kids. The alienated parent often experiences more financial problems, alcohol and drug problems, stress, physical and mental health issues, depression and sometimes suicide.

“Studies have shown,” explains Boere, “that the affected children tend to leave school early; engage in risky sexual activity; experience higher unemployment and engage in more criminal activity. And there are tremendous emotional costs for both parents and children who are trying to cope with their losses.”

Marriage counselors, lawyers, judges, psychologists, and teachers, as well as families themselves are becoming more and more aware of the problems of parental alienation and are searching for more ways to resolve the situation.

Organizations such as the Nanaimo Men’s Resource Centre and the Parents Coalition of BC, as well as many other organizations across Canada, provide public workshops to help families and professionals to learn ways to avoid the problems associated with parental alienation.

The Nanaimo Men’s Resource Centre has produced a 30 minute educational DVD on the subject of Parental Alienation Awareness which is available to the public and community groups. For more information call the Nanaimo Men’s Resource Centre at 250-716-1551 or website: www.nanaimomen.com. For more information from Ontario go to www.paawareness.org .

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