

NEWS & VIEWS

SEPTEMBER 2006

From The Editor

2006 has seen many changes at NMRC. We have had people come and go. We have launched a Fathering Needs Assessment Survey within the community, on our website and through mass mailing. This survey helped us to gather much needed information to help us plan for program and fundraising. We were shown that through that survey we are meeting a need in our community. We also have been able to plot out the newest of programs to be offered here at NMRC, *Dad's Make A Difference*. Keep an eye on our website to keep up with the developments there.

We have also launched *Anger In Control* and received great reviews from participants and community partners and supporters alike.

The most recent news for NMRC has come from the community. Recently a Coroners Inquest into the tragic events of Nov. 18, 2004 which claimed the lives of Jeffrey Bethell and Seth Kinser Thornett during a high speed chase through Nanaimo, recommended "that NMRC be provided with a permanent funding base to assist raising our profile in the community and providing workshops on anger control" and support for families during separation and divorce.

Theo J. Boere (Executive Director) and James Latour met with Nanaimo MLA, Leonard Krog and Ron Cantelon recently to discuss that recommendation. But we will need more than just a few articles in the paper and support of one or two

community personalities to make that happen. **Why not write a letter to your MLA supporting NMRC?**
JAL

Recently you may have received a letter or e-mail asking you to renew your membership with NMRC. This is a "gentle reminder" to those of you who did renew your membership yet to do so. It is important as a non-profit to maintain our membership, so we would encourage you to renew as soon as you possibly can.

If you are not already a member, we would encourage you to "join the cause". You can do so by going to our website, dropping in, or calling us on the phone.

Dad's Make a Difference Program

Volunteers Needed!

For our new program being developed for New and Young Dads. We are looking for fathers who would like to volunteer to mentor young and new Dads. You will need to be able to volunteer four to five hours per week, have completed a criminal record check and be available to

do home visits. This program will help young and new Dads in the



areas of parenting skills, relationship building,

communication skills, financial planning and more. Do you remember what it was like to be a new dad and not have any answers to all the questions you had? Do you remember wishing someone could help? You can do that for someone else. Please contact NMRC for more information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Child Support Initiative	2
Email from a Reader	2
Thank you	3
Parental Alienation Awareness Video	4

Resource Library

We are compiling and indexing all our helpful articles at the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre and placing them in our growing library.

If you feel that you have an article or resource that you'd like to contribute, please submit them to our front desk and they will forward them to James for addition to our library.

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Child Support Initiative to Help Children and Families

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

2006AG0027-000801

June 13, 2006

Ministry of Attorney General

VICTORIA - Separated parents will be better able to manage the financial demands of raising children through a new pilot program launched this month in Kelowna, Attorney General Wally Oppal announced today.

"Every parent knows that raising children requires years of dedication and care, no matter whether the family's income level rises or falls while they are growing up," said Oppal. "This innovative Child Support Recalculation Service will, for the first time, allow many child support payments to be automatically changed to reflect changes in a payor's income on an annual basis without having to return to court."

The program involves parents who pay child support following separation or divorce. They are asked to provide updated financial information, such as income tax returns, which is then used to recalculate and update the child support amount. There is no charge for the recalculation.

Payor parents whose income has changed will have their support amount adjusted, based on an increase or decrease in income, to more accurately reflect their current ability to pay. However, if financial information requested is not provided, maintenance will be recalculated based on an assumed 10 per cent increase in the payor's income.

"Kelowna families will be the first in the province to benefit from this progressive program designed to stabilize relationships between separated parents and their children," said Kelowna-Lake Country MLA Al Horning. "Too often, changes in a payor's income level result in a permanent breakdown of relationships that negatively affects the whole family."

"This is a positive step in supporting children and providing families with a practical means to resolve financial issues surrounding separation and divorce without involving an onerous and sometimes adversarial court process," said Okanagan-Westside MLA Rick Thorpe.

"This new approach has strong support from the Office of the Chief

Judge because it is better for families," said Kelowna-Mission MLA Sindi Hawkins. "In addition, it frees court time to focus on matters that need the full support of the court system" The pilot program applies to provincial court support orders issued on or after June 1, 2006 in Kelowna.

Some exemptions under the Family Relations Act may apply. Staff from the Family Justice Services Division of the Ministry of Attorney General will contact parents to inform them of their obligations and timeframes for an annual review of income and support payments.

The pilot project will be extended to Vancouver and Surrey. Following evaluation of all three sites, it may be extended to other areas of the province.

For more information about other family justice programs, please visit www.gov.bc.ca/ag

Media contact: Carol Carman,
Communications Director
250.387.4965

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.

Please note that NMRC is observing this new initiative and looking for feedback and results before we endorse this program.

Father Physically Assaulted and Still Loses in Divorce

I have recently been through court for what was supposed to be a divorce but got bumped down to an interim order. My total legal fees to date for a 3 day hearing are over \$11,500. I lost more than everything.

I am a very devoted Christian who saw his wife fall away from Christ and our marriage dissolve. The culminating event was an argument on whether I was allowed to drink coffee in the morning and this led to my wife physically assaulting me while I was in the bath tub bathing my 1 year old son. We were only married 2.5 years. She brought a wonderful daughter to the marriage who is 7 and we had a son together who is now 2.

My son spent 50 percent of his time with me after the separation as I only work 50 percent of the time.

She had an \$18/hr union job which she quit 6 months after our separation. She entered school to get a Bachelors degree. She informed me that it was her intent to leave the town we live in, take the children, and attend school 600 km away. She was able to do her education in the town we live in. She then changed the degree she desired slightly and added a Masters on to her wish so that it was not obtainable locally.

(Continued on page 3)

Reserve your spot at our upcoming and highly successful workshop, **starting October 16th!!!** You can reserve your



spot by contacting NMRC. For more up to date information please visit our website at www.nanaimomen.com.

Thank You to our Supporters (January-March 2006)

We want to take a moment and say **thank you** to some of our donors and supporters in 2006:

- United Way—Nanaimo
- Vancouver Foundation
- Ministry of Children & Family Development
- The Queen Alexandra Foundation
- All our volunteers who gave generously of their time and talents
- Also, many anonymous donors who gave financially, gifts, and of their time.

Father Physically Assaulted...continued

(Continued from page 2)

I work at a high paying union job. In addition I have tucked considerable savings away from my previous career as a contractor in the forest industry. The children have 4 grandparents locally; attended private Christian school; have a loving father here; and all their friends are here.

My sole intent was to keep the children close to me. Money means little to me. I tried to negotiate several times but a firm "no" was the only response every time so I was forced to attend court.

My ex-wife won everything and more in court. She was given primary residency and the children are allowed to move with her. She was obviously awarded child support in accordance with the guidelines to which I have no objection (\$600+). She was also awarded spousal support (\$650) which was a real shocker. My lawyer assured me she would get a little but was surprised at this amount. I should remind you that she was in school, but had the summer off and could have returned to that \$18/hr union job until September when she would return to school. Instead she has been going to the lake daily and has quite the tan. Also she used to work and attend school simultaneously.

I have always paid \$700 in child support; almost \$100 too much. (\$475 of it went towards her car payment which we agreed upon.) Her lawyer argued successfully in court that I was simply paying this out of the goodness of my heart and that I therefore owed back child sup-

port of \$475/month. Therefore I now owe several thousand in arrears for child support!!!

The support payments total one of my bi-weekly pay cheques. I have done a budget for myself and only my basic bills will take the other cheque. These are mortgage, electricity, gas, house insurance, property tax, telephone and internet (no TV), vehicle insurance and gas. I am left with no money to buy food, clothing, vehicle repair, nothing. I should point out that I am very prudent with money and you will not

PARENTS COALITION • BC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, October 14, 2006, 1 pm
Best Western Coquitlam Inn
319 North Rd, Coquitlam, BC
(2 blocks from Skytrain)
For more info: 604.417.4045
or
www.parentswhocare.ca

Special Guests

Doug Welbanks is the former director of Debtor Assistance and Debt Collection in the Province of BC. Author of *Finances After Separation*.
www.financesafterseparation.com

Gardner Wiseheart is Founder of the highly successful Maps for Dads and Health Families programs & Dad's Make a Difference Program.
www.hfsatx.com

Are you a member of NMRC yet???

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

find an individual who can live for less. In addition the judge declared that due to the large amounts of time off I get it should be no trouble to travel the 600km to see my children quite often. This I agree with but how exactly am I supposed to put gas in my vehicle?

I do not know what my ex-wife will obtain out of my assets but all indicators are about \$50,000 for a 2.5 year marriage. She is trying for over \$100,000. By my calculations once legal fees are paid and once she is paid and with the fact that I will be slipping into the hole every month I will have nothing left but my house, which I built myself, in 5 years. If the situation does not change then I will be completely bankrupt in 10 years.

In conclusion I guess it is easy to harp about the unfairness of the situation financially because numbers don't lie. I challenge anyone to find a case where a male physically assaulted his wife and won all of this in trial. Talk about a sexist legal system. The real tragedy is a little 2 year old boy who absolutely loves fishing, camping, and playing with his dad will now be fatherless for most of the time. He and I have such a strong bond due to the large amounts of time we spent together. He is my best friend and I am his. I was raised by my father and was raised with the belief that men do not cry but boy was that wrong.

Submitted by Email

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home

For **GBLQ Youth 13-25**
A Place of safety affirmation reality

When do we meet?
On the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month

Where do we meet
Nanaimo Youth Services Association
290 Bastion Street, Nanaimo, BC

On the Web
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/QYN/>
qyn@yahoo.com

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- \$100 Corporate (1 Year)

We're on the Web!
www.nanaimomen.com

Parental Alienation Awareness
what happens when parents turn children against parents



presented by
The Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre

DVD VIDEO

Parental Alienation Awareness Video
NOW AVAILABLE!!!
\$24.95

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 on our society.



Video Includes:

- an interview with psychologist Dr. Larry Waterman
- interviews with parents affected by parental alienation
- dramatic sequences illustrating the 3 types of parental alienation
- the effects on children, parents, extended family and society
- the influences of courts, lawyers, judges, counselors and teachers
- an overview of the 8 components of parental alienation
- an analysis of the 3 levels of parental alienation
- solutions and a review of the 12 commandments for divorcing parents

produced by **The Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre** written and directed by **John Westwood** hosted by **Theo Boere** and **Carmen Barclay**
videography, editing and cover design by **Frederic Robinson** and **Tash Baycroft** of **Taba Frero Pictures**
concept by **Theo Boere**, **Carmen Barclay** and **Dr. Larry Waterman**

running time: 32 minutes

For more information log on to
www.nanaimomen.com

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DVD VIDEO

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