
SIDE BY SIDE

Strategies for Working with Vulnerable Fathers



Join us in Winnipeg.

March 1-2, 2017

Father involvement is increasing. We are seeing more dads involved in family life in more ways than ever. However, many dads find themselves in situations that have a negative impact on their ability to be the dads their children need. We can easily assume these dads don't know how to be a "good" dad or don't care about being a "good" dad.

These are the dads who need our attention.

It is time we gave them what they needed.

March 1-2, 2017 is the time to get connected, informed, and mobilized in your work with fathers at risk.

REGISTER NOW: sidebysideconference.eventbrite.ca

Venue

Canad Inns Polo Park
1405 St. Matthews Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3G 3P7

Overnight room rate: \$114

Conference code: *Dad
Central Conference*

KEYNOTES

Brian Russell

Brian Russell has been working with fathers since 2002. He started a fathering support group through an Ontario Early Years Centre that allowed him to develop a number of programs and services for fathers. This included parent education for dads and father-child activities. In 2008 he took on the role of coordination for Dad Central Ontario, which has allowed him to develop toolkits and resources for engaging fathers. He trains, consults, and speaks about father involvement across Ontario. He also runs a private counselling practice, is married, and has three (almost) adult daughters.

Philip Sevigny

Phillip Sevigny, PhD, is a Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Professor at Luther College, University of Regina. His research interests have focused on the changing role of men within the family, exploring fathers' parenting beliefs, and supporting men during the transition to fathering. Utilizing a strength based framework, he has worked with fathers in a variety of contexts and capacities since 2000. He is married with two daughters.

Conference at a Glance

Feb 28

7:00 pm Pre-conference Social (no charge; registration required)

March 1

8:30 am Registration
 9:00 Welcome - Wab Kinew, MLA for Fort Rouge
 9:45 Keynote - Brian Russell, Provincial Coordinator, Dad Central Ontario
 10:30 Break
 10:45 Workshop Series A (see below)
 12:15 pm Lunch
 1:15 Knowledge Sharing Forum
 2:15 Dads Speak
 2:45 Break
 3:00 Workshop Series B (see below)
 4:30 Wrap-up

March 2

9:00 am Welcome
 9:30 Keynote - Philip Sevigny, University of Regina
 10:15 Break
 10:30 Workshop Series C (see below)
 12:00 pm Conference Wrap-up

Optional Tour (Mar 2)

1:00 - 3:30 pm Tour of Canadian Museum of Human Rights (\$25 registration required and a shuttle bus provided)



Workshop Information

Series A

1. Positive fatherhood involvement is a key primary prevention strategy to preventing domestic violence: A Calgary Case Study Working with Fathers-at-Risk (Lana Wells and Patricia Jones, AB)

The University of Calgary's *Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence* and Catholic Family Service's *Louise Dean Centre* believe that positive father involvement is a key primary prevention strategy to stop domestic violence. As a result, they partnered to implement a best practice program with at-risk fathers. This presentation will examine the implications for embedding a fatherhood program into an organization that only served young women for 46 years. It will also include current research on promoting positive fatherhood involvement, strategies to engage policy makers and community leaders along with practical strategies for working with fathers-at-risk.

2. You're Welcome: Learn from the Mistakes We Made Working with Young Dads (Strive Niagara and Niagara Public Health; presenters to be announced, ON)

Learn how a Young Dads' Drop-in started empowering several young dads to improve their relationships with their child and partner. Strive Niagara and Public Health worked together to evaluate best practice for engaging young dads to participate in a program that would support their parenting, connect them to other young dads and encourage their own personal growth.

3. Les pères immigrants/nouveaux arrivant: une réalité à explorer (Frederic Lecourtois and Brigitte Dorge, MB)

Être un père immigrant, c'est d'abord et avant tout être un papa. Être père pose de nombreux défis dans notre société moderne. Être père immigrant en pose encore bien davantage.

Le père immigrant, comme tous les membres de sa famille, est confronté à de nombreux défis et son adaptation constitue une épreuve importante. Le père qui saura s'ouvrir à sa nouvelle société possédera les meilleures chances d'intégration.

Sous le postulat d'un atelier ouvert avec une participation active des invités, la problématique de la place du père dans la cellule familiale sera abordée ainsi que les difficultés inhérentes à l'arrivée dans un nouveau pays. Des thèmes tels que la communication et l'attachement seront abordés afin de mettre en relief la complexité du sujet.

Dans un premier temps, une présentation des différentes étapes d'adaptation sera proposée aux participants. L'adaptation fonctionnelle, l'adaptation sociale et l'adaptation culturelle seront tous des sujets abordés dans cette optique.

Dans un deuxième temps, un partage des expériences de chacun permettra au groupe de se poser des questions et savoir quelles sont les situations auxquelles les pères immigrants sont confrontés.

4. **Incarcerated Dads: The Promising Presence of a Father** (Louise Leonardi, ON)

Each year Canada houses about 23,000 men federally; approximately 95% of these men will return to the community after prison. This 'at-risk' group will be affected by unemployment and low social economic status as they reintegrate, and will not be successful without support. Concerned incarcerated fathers (many of whom lack positive male role models who are dedicated to their families) ask how they can strengthen their relationships with their children; they ask how they can strive to provide stability in their relationships; they ask how they can model constructive moral fiber. Come and learn what the Canadian Families and Corrections Network is doing to assist these dads.

Series B

I. **"If I Take One Thing from This Program, It Is How I Give Love to My Children": Engaging Fathers in Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting** (Joan Durrant, Jean Tinling, Ashley Stewart-Tufescu, and Abdi Ahmed, MB)

Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PDEP) replaces rewards and punishments with communication and problem-solving. It is now being delivered in 30 countries. We will provide an introduction to PDEP and describe our approach to engaging fathers in Manitoba and in Palestine. We also will present outcome data assessing changes in fathers' attitudes toward physical and other punishments.

2. **Creating a Fathers' Program from an Aboriginal Perspective** (Brenden Moore and Kelly L'Hirondelle, BC)

In order to develop a successful program it's important to have a deeper understanding of the historical issues facing dads today. We will discuss a short history and proven strategies based on our successful Aboriginal Fathers Program and the new research report, "Rebuilding Our Identity." Next we will discuss how to find, engage and develop relationships with dads and how to create interest in your program. Lastly, we will discuss how to develop successful programs for today's dads as well as keys to long term success.

3. **From the Street to the Nursery: Baby Steps to Fatherhood** (Kim Sutherland and Jason Simcak, SK)

Kim and Jason will walk the audience through the process of their 'accidental' father and son relationship. Giving back to young dads, Jason holds a senior position in the very organization he helped strongly influence in his teen years. Their presentation will highlight the growth of Street

Culture Project while simultaneously achieving recovery, connection and healthy fatherhood!

The presentation will include a face art demonstration – done during the dialogue between Jason and Kim. Although a seemingly unlikely tool, it provides a visualization and helps cement the relationship between mentor and mentee, to the purpose of sharing parts of ‘what it means to be a father’.

4. **Do Men Experience Domestic Violence?** (Stephen P. Sutherland, MB)

The Men’s Resource Centre of MB provides the only emergency shelter for men (and children) who are fleeing domestic or family violence in Canada. The reality is that men from all cultures and all walks of life experience domestic and family violence. Figures suggest that as many as one in three victims of domestic violence are male. However, men are often reluctant to report abuse because they feel embarrassed, or they fear they won't be believed, or worse, that law enforcement will assume that since they're male they are the perpetrator of the violence and not the victim. At this workshop you will learn about our program and come away with strategies for assisting men who disclose abuse and for knowing the signs of those who are experiencing violence, but are reluctant to come forward. This workshop will allow for conversation and collaboration for those who work alongside men and strengthen resources for fathers who find themselves marginalized by the lack of male-specific support services.

Series C

1. **Dads - The Other Essential Parent** (Chris Pellerin and Darren Duguay, NB)

During our time together we will cover: “From Support to Single Parents to Support for Dads Moncton: The legacy of Senator Nancy Hartling and John Lutz”; “The voices of Children and Dads (a video testimony); the stories behind the co-founders; the fathers-led approach through Listening Power and Emotional Fitness; “Be A Great Dad” (the resource to build capacity in the community); the network of services and support available to dads in the Greater Moncton Area; the issues and concerns facing dads, as shared by dads; and the success stories of dads being positive role-models for their children.

2. **Dads in Gear** (Gayl Sarbit and Reg Unrau, BC)

Dads in Gear (DIG) is an innovative program that engages men in quitting smoking and in healthy living, through involved fathering. The **purpose of this workshop** is to: 1) introduce the DIG program by actively engaging participants in a mock session to demonstrate how fathering, healthy living (i.e., physical activity/healthy eating), and quitting smoking are integrated, using masculine themes and men’s preferences related to health promotion; 2) share pilot study findings and video testimonials on initial responses to DIG from Aboriginal fathers, and 3) invite participants to propose ways the DIG

program could meet the needs of diverse Aboriginal fathers across Canada.

3. Promising Futures for Young Dads (Derek Dicks and Karen Caine, AB)

Working with young dads since 1999, Terra Centre for Teen Parents has developed services that meet their unique needs. This workshop will highlight strategies used to create environments where young dads feel they belong, so that they can understand and celebrate their role in their child's life. In this workshop, the presenters will describe practical strategies for engaging and supporting young dads to build their capacity for future success. The presenters will focus on using strengths-based and team approaches that assist young dads to engage in a larger circle of care and begin to understand and believe in their own ability as young fathers.

4. Dads Make a Difference: Activities and Resources to Support Father Engagement (Tanis Shanks and Connie Herman, SK)

This interactive session will provide an overview of resources developed by the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute that are aimed at fathers and focus on health promotion. The presenters will take the audience through a couple of examples demonstrating the "how" and "why" of resource development as well as how agencies can adapt their own resources to be more father-friendly. Additionally, the presentation will provide ideas to adapt activities and resources to engage fathers in programming, such as the Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program.

Note to participants registered: Bring one or two resources from your organizations that are distributed to parents.

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CONTACT: info@dadcentral.ca

Canadian Museum for Human Rights Tour

Opened in 2014, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights seeks to "explore the subject of human rights with a special but not exclusive reference to Canada, in order to enhance the public's understanding of human rights, to promote respect for others and to encourage reflection and dialogue."

The building itself, from the Great Hall to the Tower of Hope, is meant to be experienced as a journey.

Join our private guided tour on Thursday, March 2. Register when purchasing your conference ticket. A shuttle will leave from the hotel at 1 PM. Spaces are limited. Cost: \$25