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# Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan

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**The Elizabeth Fry Society and  
The Women's Community Training Residence**

**Cordially invite you to our annual**

## **Christmas Open House**

**Friday, December 3, 2004  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**123 La Ronge Road  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

**Come and meet our new Executive Director  
Caroleen Wright**

**~ Refreshments will be served ~**

**The Elizabeth Fry Society provides Christmas gifts for children of federally Sentenced women in the province. We invite you to donate unwrapped gifts for children ages 6 months to 16 years.**

**We also provide Christmas gift bags for federally incarcerated women and we gratefully appreciate cash donations to help purchase items to fill the gift bags.**

## Update on the response of Corrections Services Canada to the Human Rights Commissions report on systemic discrimination faced by federally sentenced women.

In the last issue of the Elizabeth Fry Newsletter, we discussed the findings of a systemic review into the situation facing federally sentenced women. The systemic review was conducted by the Canadian Human Rights Commission at the request of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS)<sup>1</sup> and the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC). The Commission's findings were released January 28, 2004.<sup>2</sup>

As of this date Corrections Services of Canada have not confirmed the findings of the report nor have they acknowledged that discriminatory practices are occurring in federal prisons despite the findings of the Commission.

Our frustration with CSC's lack of response has been echoed by the Office of the Correctional Investigator. On November 18, 2004 the Office of the Correctional Investigator (OCI) issued its 2003-2004 Annual Report. The Correctional Investigator is an independent office responsible to the Federal government through the Minister of Public Safety and

Emergency Preparedness (Formerly the Solicitor General), Anne McLellan. For the first time, the OCI directed its recommendations directly to the Minister rather than Corrections Services Canada in a move that highlights the intransigence of CSC. The recommendations of the OCI include many that have been made repeatedly by their office in the past as well as other review processes and Elizabeth Fry Societies across the country. These recommendations include the need to review the security classification based, in part, on the discriminatory characteristics of mental and physical disability; the "2 year rule" which mandates the placement of all prisoners serving a life sentence to a minimum of 2 years in a maximum security facility; the need for a needle exchange program in prisons; and the need for a Deputy Commissioner of Aboriginal corrections. This later recommendation is all the more urgent considering the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal women in the federal prison system. Aboriginal women account for 3% of the female population in Canada but in 2003 they made up 29% of the women in federal correctional facilities.

The Office of the Correctional investigator specifically recommended that

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<sup>1</sup> The impetus for the systemic review came from the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan and was eventually carried forward by the national body representing all Elizabeth Fry Societies in Canada - the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies.

<sup>2</sup> The complete report is available at [www.chrc-ccdp.ca](http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca)

- the Minister mandate the early publication of a ‘final response plan’ on Madame Justice Arbour’s recommendations, followed by a consultation process involving all interested stakeholders;
- the Department provide a public response to the Canadian Human rights Commission recommendation by October 31, 2004.

Justice Arbour’s recommendations were issued in April 1996. Her investigation was in response to the stripping and shackling of women prisoners at the Prison for Women by a male “swat team” in 1994. Justice Arbour’s recommendations have yet to be set into place almost 10 years after her report was written, a report the OCI call “a landmark for corrections in this country”.<sup>3</sup>

The Office of the Correctional Investigator also pointed out that the Canadian Human Right Commission’s Report, released in January 2004, identified many of the same concerns as had Justice Arbour. It should be noted that CSC has missed the October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to provide a public response.

CAEFS, on behalf of all Elizabeth Fry Societies across the country, continues to join other national and

<sup>3</sup> Louise Arbour. Commission of Inquiry into Certain Events at the Prison for women in Kingston, Ottawa, Public Works and Government Services Canada, 1996. Available: [http://www/sgc.gc.ca/publications/corrections/pdf/199681\\_e.pdf](http://www/sgc.gc.ca/publications/corrections/pdf/199681_e.pdf)

international partners fighting to ensure that women prisoners are not discriminated against. When their human rights are violated, so are the rights of all of us.

- Submitted by Ailsa M. Watkinson: Board member of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan and President of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

## December Memorial Breakfast

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

### Special Guest – Jane Doe

The woman who changed Canadian Law

December 6, 2004 at 7:30 a.m.

The Quality Hotel  
90 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Street East

Tickets: \$10 or \$6 for students & unemployed  
Tickets at: USSU Women’s Centre and YWCA  
(tickets must be purchased in advance)

Presented by  
Saskatoon Women’s Community Coalition

For more information contact Holly @ 384-2278

Also on Dec. 6:

- U of S Law Library – Public Forum
- Indian and Metis Friendship Centre  
– Memorial Ceremony

For more information contact Liz @  
664-6236

## *Happy Holidays!*



As we look back at the past year, we are struck by the dedication and commitment of many hardworking women. This includes the women who devote their professional lives to the society, numerous volunteers who dedicate invaluable time to the society, and the criminalized women the society strives to serve. Words cannot justify what we feel. It is with heartfelt thanks that we thank you for all you do. As we cherish the time we spend with loved ones during the holiday season, we are also saddened by the conditions faced by incarcerated women.

We ask everyone to take a few moments to ponder the struggles faced by all women, especially criminalized women. Imagine the holidays spent in a warm home filled with the scent of cinnamon and pine, surrounded by those closest to you, delighting in children's laughter and wonderment, and the overwhelming sense of peace and belonging. And then imagine spending the holidays in a 6"x10" cement cell, with locked doors being the only connection to the outside world, no access to family or loved ones, the absence of children's laughter, and the overwhelming sense of loneliness and despair.

Let this imagery, along with continued passion and dedication to our purpose, be our motivation and guide, for the challenges and triumphs we are sure to face in the coming year. All my relations.

\* On behalf of the Board of Directors.

Elizabeth Smith and Nancy Poon, Co-Chairs



Christmas is the time of year we are filled with excitement and anticipation, looking forward to visits with beloved family members and cherished friends.

I love Christmas! I love the twinkling of the lights, the hustle and bustle, the good cheer, scrumptious food, the snow, warm houses, kindness and laughter.

As the years pass Christmas becomes more and more precious to me and my consciousness grows as to how truly fortunate and privileged I have been in my life. I have the ever increasing realization that many, many people in our communities do not experience that warmth and belonging during the holiday season or throughout the year. Such is the case for so many of the women and families

Elizabeth Fry Society supports and advocates for. It is disconcerting to me that the women we work with are dealing with so many of the same issues they had when I started with community based organizations fifteen years ago. Conditions for women who are incarcerated remain rife with challenges to serving their time productively and returning to their family and friends equipped to face the many formidable obstacles to a peaceful and fulfilling life they most certainly will encounter. It has become apparent to me, there has been an abundance of information gathered and recommendations for change have been made through the Arbour Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the Correctional Investigator's Report, the Amnesty International report, 'Stolen Sisters' and others. Even with some efforts made by people in the community, inside and outside corrections, so many struggles remain the same. To the women incarcerated and for those that care about them, progress seems painfully slow. The systemic social inequities that often propel women into conflict with the law are persistent and even increasing. The flaws in our communities, our correctional facilities, and our justice processes have been exposed, the problems well documented, it is time for action!

With my move to Saskatoon and Elizabeth Fry Society I also acknowledge that I am blessed. I am blessed with a caring family and supportive friends, blessed with having the wonderful opportunity to work with the knowledgeable, talented and committed staff and board of Elizabeth Fry Society, blessed with a warm welcome and support from many community members. Lastly, I am blessed with the opportunity to get to know the women who come to Elizabeth Fry Society for help and support, to be a part of their experience, a witness to change in their lives and to possibly have the privilege to be a part of social change that might assist in their sojourn. My desire this holiday season is for all women to have the opportunity to experience the many comforts and blessings I, and others, have had the great fortune to experience.

I wish you all a wonderful, joyful time and as we approach 2005 my hope for all is; a year filled with courage in the struggles of your heart, tenacity in the face of opposition, celebration in small victories, and peace for you and those who are dear to you.

\* Caroleen Wright, Executive Director



# Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan

201, 165 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South Saskatoon SK S7K 1L8  
Phone: 934-4606 Fax: 652-2933 Email: [efry@sasktel.net](mailto:efry@sasktel.net)

## *Rebels With A Cause<sup>3</sup>*

The Elizabeth Fry Society is now seeking nominations for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rebels With a Cause Fundraiser to be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2005.

*Rebels With a Cause* is an evening of good fun and good food held during National Elizabeth Fry Week when we pay tribute to the women we admire. At our 2004 event we honored seven incredible women. Do you know a unique woman who should receive recognition for the way she accomplishes so much? Is she unconventional yet very effective? Do words like original, creative, feisty, activist, funny, fierce, innovative, imaginative, persistent and determined come to mind?

You can nominate an extraordinary woman by submitting:

- A completed Nomination Form. (on the back of this page)
- A letter telling us about your candidate's accomplishments and the qualities that make her outstanding. What skills and abilities does she bring to her work or area of interest? What impact has she made on the community that she serves? What qualities and traits make her a rebel in her field? (written submission not to exceed 3 pages in length)
- A biographical statement of two or three sentences to be used for promotional material associated with the event.

**Closing date for nominations is February 28, 2005.**

Please submit nominations to:

Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan  
201, 165 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South  
Saskatoon SK S7K 1L8

OR

Fax to:

(306) 652-2933

- For upcoming information on the event, check soon at [www.elizabethfrysask.org](http://www.elizabethfrysask.org) ●



A United Way Member Agency

Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan  
*Rebels With A Cause - 2005*

Nomination Form

**Nominee**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*I consent to my nomination for the Rebels With a Cause event.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator (Contact Person)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Co-nominator**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

◀ Closing date for nominations is February 28, 2005 ▶

## *Farewell...*

The staff, board, volunteers and clients of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan bid farewell to ...

✧ *Beth Burnett-Figley*—WCTR Residence Director  
Beth has been associated with the Elizabeth Fry Society for more than 10 years. She started her association with the Society as a volunteer out of our main office and then was hired on as our Administrative Assistant, again at the Main Office. Subsequently, her service to this Society included Casual Residence Supervisor, Case Management Worker and finally Director of the Women's Residence. In addition, Beth has been very active in the Prairie Regional Halfway House Association. The association formed to standardize and improve service delivery in all Halfway Houses across the Prairie Regions. Beth sat on several committees and hosted the first Annual Halfway House Association General meeting in the summer of 2004 in Saskatoon.

She has been an advocate for women in conflict with the law, for women who are struggling to integrate back into the community and for general improvement and change to both the conditions and treatment that women often experience within our current correctional institutions on the civic, provincial and federal levels.

Beth enjoys gardening as was evident of the beautiful plants she proudly displayed in her office. She is talented as a home renovator and decorator and could be counted on to give great advice when others were taking on projects.

We wish Beth great success and the best in any future endeavors.

✧ *Julia Price* – Research Coordinator

For 10 years, Julia offered her creativity, wealth of knowledge and skills to the Elizabeth Fry Society in a number of capacities: starting out as a volunteer Board member and then staff member in the positions of WCTR Administrative Assistant, Prison Visitation Liaison, Fundraising Coordinator, Research Coordinator for the Barriers to Reintegration Project and more informally, decorator and crafts person. Julia's compassion and passion rendered her such a vital part of the Elizabeth Fry Society that her absence is felt on a daily basis. We miss her a great deal but wish her only the best wherever she chooses to devote her many talents in the future.

## *Welcome ...*

The Society would like to welcome and introduce our new Executive Director Caroleen Wright. Caroleen was raised in Saskatoon, attending Hugh Cairns V.C. Elementary School and Walter Murray Collegiate. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (with distinction) from the University of Saskatchewan while living and working in Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Moose Jaw. After living in Moose Jaw for twenty years she returned to take the position of Executive Director of Elizabeth Fry Society. She brings with her to Saskatoon three children, all young men, ages 15, 17 and 18.

While in Moose Jaw she worked at the Women's Transition House as a Crisis Worker and then developed and implemented the Children's Program. The last seven years in Moose Jaw were spent as the Director of the Moose Jaw John Howard Society. She has trained in Dispute Resolution and has been excited by the many justice initiatives in Saskatchewan

brought about through community participation and through the practice and process of Restorative Justice.

Caroleen is getting to know the staff, board, clients and the many dedicated people involved with Elizabeth Fry Society and is very glad to be back in her old stomping grounds of Saskatoon.

❄️ **Board Members:**

We would like to welcome the following new members to our Society's Board of Directors and look forward to working with them.

*Linda Wood* – Linda is a lawyer with the Saskatoon Legal Aid Commission and looks forward to contributing anyway she can to the Society.

*Dawn McCarthy* – Currently Dawn is the Village Coordinator at the Saskatoon Community Service Village. In the past, Dawn was a valued staff member with the Society for 12 years.

*Joanne Ure* – Joanne retired from her position as Librarian at the Regional Psychiatric Centre in 1993. Since then she has been busy volunteering as a board member for a number of organizations.

❄️ **Staff Members at the WCTR:**

We would like to welcome the following new Casual Supervisors to our Women's Community Training Residence and look forward to working with them.

*Dianne Hallberg, Kim Short, Kara Wehrens*

❄️ **Staff Changes:**

*Cindy Carbno*, Acting Residence Director is on maternity leave. We would like to thank Cindy for the tremendous job she did as Acting Director at the WCTR. Cindy really went above and beyond. We wish her well as she embarks on her new adventure of motherhood.

*Kim Barnes*, Case Management worker is now Acting Residence Director and Administrative Assistant.

*Sheryl Olson*, Administrative Assistant is on leave for one year.

*Barb Bateman*, Casual Residence Supervisor is now a Case Management Worker.

*Risha Hughes*, Casual Residence Supervisor is now a Case Management Worker.



**Whether you are celebrating the Winter Solstice,**

❄️ **Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa...**



**The Staff and Board of the Elizabeth Fry Society**

**Extend their best wishes for a joyful holiday.**



## *A Journey of Many Moons ~*



As I walk by the river's edge, I feel the sun smile on my face as I breath the fresh air. I can hear the rustling of fall's colourful leaves beneath my feet. I hear the birds fly high above me, their lovely wings flutter in the sky. I take a picture, not with my camera but with my mind and spirit to capture all of God's creations, to paint the Creator's eye of a wonderful majestic earth. For as I walk along this journey of life, I remember so many moons behind me. I will grasp in my heart and mind the teachings of the Elders; to respect one another, to learn discipline, to find true happiness, love and peace, to hold on to the good and dispose of the bad, to remember the happy times, to focus on a new beginning, to be grateful for the trials I face, to be victorious from learning from my mistakes and to pass this on to my children and grandchildren.

*~Elizabeth Watcheston*

## *Here I Am*

*Laying here in a room 12 by 24 feet  
Who would know this would be my destiny.  
Wasn't I the one with all the A's?  
Wasn't I the one with all the praise?  
I guess I didn't think,  
I guess I didn't.  
Was that really I?  
Who had that knife in my hand?  
Laying in a room 12 by 24 feet.  
Just for filling my destiny.*

*~Danielle Neapetung*

# Thank You Thank You

**T**hank you to those who have made donations to the Society during the year.

Colleen Leier ~Judith Heminger ~Nancy Poon ~Phyllis Goertz  
Marilyn Boechler ~Tillie Taylor ~Frances McLean ~Deb Hopkins  
Harvey Clarke ~Dianne MacDonald ~Shirley Handley ~Aaron Fox



**Thank You** to the following for their generous contributions to our  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraiser "*Rebels With a Cause*".

Shawna Roberts-Senger ▪ Eleanor Bohachik ▪ Mary Lou Rheindel  
Cathy Bohachik ▪ Lofty Ladies Boutique ▪ Dawn McBride  
Walter and Lois Quigley ▪ Bob Nicholson ▪ Joan Van Impe  
Margaret Peterson (Fabutan) ▪ Cynthia Dyck ▪ Lisa Bray  
The Odeon Niteclub & Restaurant

*And*

Thank you to all who attended the fundraiser and helped  
to make this event a great success.

**Thank You** to Margo Kirzinger, Case Management Worker at the Community Training Residence and the Society's United Way Campaign chair, for the awesome job she did in raising money for the United Way Campaign. Margo had many fun and creative ideas that the staff and board could participate in including 50/50 draws, a noon hour walk across the bridges, pyjama days and raffles. This year's campaign was a great success!

☞ No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted. ☞

- Aesop



# MEMBERS WANTED

Members and volunteers are the bricks and mortar of every non-profit agency. Over the past several years our membership has dwindled. We know reversing this alarming trend is imperative. Issues for women in conflict with the law continue into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- ⇒ Services and programs for women are still inadequate
- ⇒ Women's prisons are filled to capacity
- ⇒ Money for community release options is lacking

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan is the only agency in the province to:

- ✓ Provide support and services to federally incarcerated women
- ✓ Operate the only halfway house for women in our province
- ✓ Advocate on behalf of criminalized women at a national level.

For over twenty years we have been a support for women across the province. Now we are asking for your support. Become a member and help strengthen our organization. Your membership provides you with voting privileges at our Annual General Meeting, and copies of our newsletters, keeping you up to date on issues concerning women and the criminal justice system.

## Membership Application

<input type="radio"/> Under/unemployed	\$ 5
<input type="radio"/> Individual	\$10
<input type="radio"/> Organization	\$25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to support the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan  
with a donation.

\_\_\_\$10    \_\_\_\$25    \_\_\_\$50    \_\_\_\$100    \_\_\_other

Please make cheques payable to:  
The Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan  
201, 165 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South    Saskatoon, SK S7K 1L8

**Board of Directors**

Cathy Bohachik	Vice-President
Merla Dyck	Member
Emma Mantee	Member
Dawn McCarthy	Member
Nancy Poon	Co-Chair
Elizabeth Smith	Co-Chair
Ailsa Watkinson	CAEFS President
Linda Wood	Member
Joanne Ure	Treasurer

**Main Office Staff**

Caroleen Wright	Executive Director
Maria Bertrand	Women’s Courtworker
Sharon Peterson	Administrative Assistant
Regan Sloan	Volunteer Coordinator

**Women’s Community Training Residence Staff**

Kim Barnes	Acting Director
Barbara Bateman	Case Management Worker
Cindy Carbno	On Leave
Kim Donald	Casual Supervisor
Deborah Ernst	Program Coordinator
Kathy Friesen	Casual Supervisor
Dianne Hallberg	Casual Supervisor
Risha Hughes	Case Management Worker
Shauna Kennon	Casual Supervisor
Margo Kirzinger	Case Management/Designate
Marcy McLaughlin	Casual Supervisor
Sheryl Olson	On Leave
Nicole Shewchuk	Casual Supervisor
Kim Short	Casual Supervisor
Regan Sloan	Casual Supervisor
Tanya Wapass	Casual Supervisor
Kara Wehrens	Casual Supervisor
Sylvia Wilkes	Residence Cook
Katie Poundmaker	Residence Elder

**Funders/Donors**

Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies  
City of Saskatoon  
Frank and Ellen Remail Foundation Inc.  
Saskatchewan Law Foundation  
Saskatchewan Lotteries  
Saskatchewan Women’s Secretariat  
Status of Women – Canada  
Proud member of the Saskatoon United Way

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The Elizabeth Fry Society has earned revenue by providing services for Saskatchewan Justice and Correctional Services Canada. Our fund-raising activities, your memberships and charitable donations also assist us in continuing to provide programs and services for women at risk.

***Mission Statement***

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan is committed to working with women in conflict with the law. Recognizing unique problems derived from their position in society, we strive to provide programs and services which ensure fair treatment and encourage an end to recidivism. We support humane solutions occurring within and from the community.



**The Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan  
and Amalgamated Charities Inc...**

*working together to raise funds for the Society*

**Upcoming Bingo dates are:**

- Friday, Dec 3rd, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, Dec 10th, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, Dec 17th, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, Dec 24th, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, Dec 31st, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

Bingo revenue is used to maintain the Elizabeth Fry Society’s office, print our newsletters and accept collect calls from women in crisis and women in prison, where phone systems permit collect calls only.

**Contact us at:**

Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan  
201, 165 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South  
Saskatoon SK S7K 1L8

Phone: (306) 934-4606  
Fax: (306) 652-2933  
E-mail: [efry@sasktel.net](mailto:efry@sasktel.net)  
Web: [elizabethfrysask.org](http://elizabethfrysask.org)

