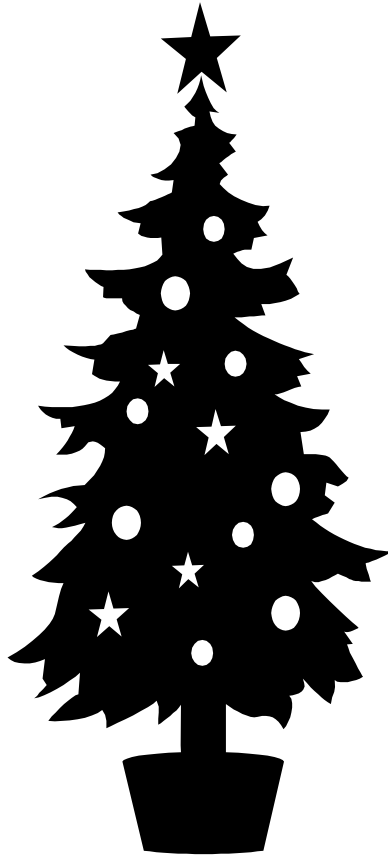




Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan

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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 2, 2005
2:00pm to 4:00 pm

123 La Ronge Road, Saskatoon

Meet our new Residence Director
Gwen Gleason-Graham

◆ 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.

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Criminalization of Women and Girls

The fastest growing prison population worldwide is women, and in particular, racialized, young, poor women and women with mental and cognitive disabilities. The increasing numbers of women in prison is clearly linked to the evisceration of health, education, and social services, combined with a simultaneous intrusion of the state in terms of surveillance, monitoring, criminalization, and institutionalization.

A high majority of sentenced women are convicted for non-violent property and drug offences. A majority are mothers who are likely to have primary childcare responsibilities. Gaining work skills is considered an important factor in successful community reintegration for women prisoners; however, women have little access to meaningful work opportunities or training programs while they are incarcerated.

Criminalized women, especially those who are Aboriginal, are likely to have histories of abuse. These experiences have devastating long-term effects, which can put these women more at risk of being criminalized and then shape how they experience prison. Prison can revive controlling aspects and experiences of abuse and feelings of loss of control and power over their lives.

Aboriginal women and girls are vastly over-represented in state institutions. The justice system has played a major role in the creation of poor social conditions in Aboriginal communities today. It has failed to provide them with protection against oppression and has instead been a tool of this oppression through the denial of Aboriginal land claims, the imposition of residential schools, the separation of families through child welfare practices, and the denial of Aboriginal control over their own communities. This has resulted in social disruption in the community and widespread poverty.

CAEFS continues to challenge Canadians to reach behind the walls and welcome women into our, and their, communities, so that they may take responsibility and account for their actions in

ways that enhance our national, provincial and local commitment and adherence to fundamental principles of equality and justice.

Taken from, *Developing International Norms and Standards to Meet the Needs of Criminalized and Imprisoned Women.*

Prepared by: Kim Pate, Executive Director Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) (Canada) and Debbie Kilroy Director, Sisters Inside (Australia) for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Bangkok Thailand 18-25 April 2005.

If we know that prisons do not work to empower women in the long run and if we know that these women are returning to their communities potentially more damaged, disenfranchised and disempowered with little or no opportunity for legitimate viable employment or education that is meaningful, we face the very real possibility of increased fiscal and human resource strain and burn-out at the community level. This leaves not only these women more handicapped in terms of health problems and labour market potential but the community suffers greatly also. Do we not owe it to our communities, indeed ourselves, to empower these women by putting into place resources from which they can enhance their potential and in turn empower our communities? Do we not owe it to our communities to “live community” not just live in a community – to empower not just enable?

- Submitted by Elizabeth Smith and Nancy Poon
Board Co -Chairs

Give a (wo)man a fish and (s)he will be able to feed today, teach (her)/him to fish and you would have fed (her)/him for a lifetime.

- Author unknown

*Whether you are celebrating Winter Solstice,
Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa...
Staff and Board of the Elizabeth Fry Society
extend their best wishes for a joyful holiday.*

A Year in Review ...

Over the past year at the Elizabeth Fry Society I have had the privilege of becoming more familiar with the experiences of women that are incarcerated in our communities and our country. I have had the good fortune to attend several regional meetings for the Elizabeth Fry Society. We ourselves hosted the fall meeting for the Prairie Region of the Society as well as the spring meeting of the Prairie Regional Half Way House Association. I also was able to attend the national meeting of Elizabeth Fry Societies in Winnipeg and the CCJA conference in Calgary.

At all the meetings I attended the two dominant questions from governments and other organizations and individuals seemed to be, *“What should we do with those unfortunate enough to become involved in our justice system?”* and *“How do we meet the demand of an increasing prison population of women, particularly aboriginal women?”* However, I am beginning to see that many of us who work and volunteer in this field, are complacent, accepting or confused as to what to do about the central issues facing women involved with the justice system. I believe that this situation exists because there is consistently an important conversation that has *not* been taking place at the events I attended. This unvoiced conversation formed the backdrop at all of the meetings. The critical unspoken conversation is really about the unrelenting poverty that is a constant in the lives of most incarcerated women in Saskatchewan and Canada.

Other important questions implicit in the discussions at these meetings included: Why is there an increase in the incarceration rate of women? Why, specifically, is there a marked increase in the rate of incarceration for aboriginal women, especially in the

Prairie Region? Why has the public perception of marginalized and vulnerable members of our society, particularly women and youth, become so narrow and severe?

I must emphasize again that underscoring all of the issues facing incarcerated women is the spectre of a pervasive physical poverty and a poverty of economic, social, and personal prospects. The increase in the degree of poverty of women and children, particularly aboriginal women and children, and all the glaring ugliness that can come with that poverty; racism, abuse of all forms, alcohol and drug addiction and an aching sense of displacement and hopelessness for many; is a fundamental causative factor with which the justice system needs to come to grips.

Our failure to recognize the crucial importance of dealing with poverty and disenfranchisement is the most disturbing element of the current discussion. The fact that the majority of women incarcerated are aboriginal and poor seems to be taken for granted. The fact that wealthy women are not filling our jails is accepted as normal. Why is it nonchalantly accepted in our communities that our provincial jails are overflowing with aboriginal, and often, younger women? Why, when it is acknowledged that community responses are best, are we still criminalizing behaviour and incarcerating disenfranchised populations at an alarming rate? Why are those who suffer from mental health disorders increasingly being housed in our prisons? Why in other parts of the country are super jails for youth being built when it has been heavily researched and documented that super jails are detrimental in their effects on youth and their correction and reintegration into the community? Why, when the increase of incarcerated women is clearly linked to the evisceration of social programs and directly connected to the increase of women and

children in poverty, is this fact widely accepted and met with tacit acceptance? Why is the public perception of 'an increase in crime, pathological offenders and ominous evil' being sold and accepted?

It is with some sadness that I realize these are the same questions that have dogged my many years working for community-based justice organizations. I have no pat answers for my many questions. At times it appears that our communities are overwhelmed by erroneous perceptions of who is doing crime and what circumstance places them in conflict with the law. This confusion leads to the claim that we are only making excuses for those that commit crimes, or are denying accountability when we seek alternative responses from communities that try to ensure reasonable, pragmatic resolutions in difficult circumstances. Perhaps in this world of excess and immediacy we may feel unable to take the time to sift through the confusion and the welter of skewed and myopic viewpoints to find more pragmatic, analytical, and yet compassionate approaches to those existing in harsh and cruel circumstances.

It is at Christmas that we are most acutely aware of those that suffer in our communities, country and world. It is the time when many are more giving and generous to those less fortunate. It is my hope that the generous spirit of Christmas extends beyond the giving of material things this Christmas and the dire and precarious circumstance of so many women in our justice system touches the hearts of those that can make a difference...We can begin by talking about the disenfranchised in our communities and reflecting on those less fortunate. Perhaps our giving may grow into critical thinking and the will to challenge strongly held misconceptions, and our faith may inspire political action and move us to express our perspectives and beliefs in ways

that will benefit the most unfortunate among us. I write these words at Christmas to spur the human sense of justice in us all. It is at Christmas that our spirit of good will, hope, charity and faith makes all things possible

I send to you season's greetings from all of us here at the Elizabeth Fry Society. We wish you all a wonderful, joyful time. As we approach 2006 my personal hope for all of you is that the next year will be one filled with courage in the struggles of the heart, tenacity in the face of injustice, celebration in small victories, and peace for you and your loved ones.

- Caroleen Wright, Executive Director

Your beliefs become your thoughts. Your thoughts become your words. Your words become your actions. Your actions become your habits. Your habits become your values. Your values become your destiny.

- Mahatma Gandhi

In Memorium:



Bernelda Wheeler

2005 Rebel With A Cause Honoree

A life long activist and communicator, Bernelda paved the way for First Nations women in Saskatchewan and Canada.



Betty Yuras

Volunteer with Elizabeth Fry Society

A longtime volunteer at our Community Training Residence, Betty touched the lives of the women with her creativity, kindness and joyful spirit.

Welcome...

The Society would like to welcome and introduce our new Residence Director Gwen Gleason-Graham...

I was asked to share some information about myself for this newsletter, so I will try to hit the highlights of my life. Being a grandmother, I have had quite a few years of living!

My first job, which was close to 30 years ago, was as a caseworker with the Alberta 7th Step Society in Edmonton. This was a halfway house for male offenders. There were also group meetings held in institutions and the community, based on a 12 Step philosophy. I spent 4 years working in the halfway house, but continued to stay involved as a volunteer with the meetings. Over the years, I visited every institution in the prairie region and remain in contact with some of the people to this day.

I went on to complete 3 university degrees, the most recent being a Master of Social Work in counselling. My last employment prior to E. Fry was in the aboriginal community. I spent 2 years at the Indian & Metis Friendship Centre in Saskatoon, working with marginalized populations teaching about the prevention of Hepatitis C. I also worked for two years on Whitecap Dakota First Nation as their mental health therapist.

In addition to my full time job here at E. Fry, I also work occasionally in a private practice counselling clients and teach a social work class through a community college in Warman. Despite keeping busy with work, I find time to volunteer on two community boards, spend time with my husband, my 91

year old mother and an American Eskimo dog named Kody. I also have several grown children and 3 grandchildren aged 2 and under.

I have had a rewarding and challenging life to date, and I have seen several people who have been incarcerated make awesome changes in their lives and move on to make a positive impact in their communities. Each of us has the strength and capacity to make compelling changes and it is an honor for me when I can assist. My thanks to E. Fry for hiring me, and I look forward to working with the organization into the future!

☞ Board Members:

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

Connie Lupichuk – Currently Connie is completing her Masters of Social Work degree through the University of Regina and is a practicing social worker in the community.

Barbara Mysko – Barbara recently completed her Law degree and is currently working with the John Howard Society. She will be articling with a firm in the Spring.

Ailsa Watkinson is currently on sabbatical in Australia but continues to hold the office of CAEFS president.

Farewell...

We would like to say farewell to Cathy Bohachik and Dawn McCarthy and to thank them for their hard work and the expertise that they brought to our Board of Directors.



We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

- Sir Winston Churchill

Thank You ...

to those who have made donations
to the Society during the year

H. Clarke • A. Gustafson • R. McLellan • A. Tran
• N. Poon • R. Wall • D. MacDonald • R. Wempe
• J. Bork • M. Boechler • A. Watkinson • R. Robinson
• T. Tillie • M. Smith • L. Newson • P. Goertz • J. Fry
• H. Musgrove • Federated Co-operatives Ltd.



Thank You to the following for their generous
contributions to our 3rd Annual Fundraiser
Rebels With A Cause.

N. Poon • C. Bohachik • D. Hopkins • M. Rheindel • S. Peterson • J. Price • V. Fast • B. Hopkins
E. Bohachik • L. Wood • J. Crouter • J. Conway • E. Scoles • E. Smith • J. Milgaard • A. McGuire
L. Stadnichuk • A. Watkinson • S. Roberts-Senger • Main Street Massage Therapy • D. McCarthy
D. Klein • D. Chalmers • G. Crookshanks • B. Schissel & C. Brooks • Credit Union Centre • Cherry
Insurance • Folkfest • United Way • YMCA • Lofty Ladies • YWCA • Discovery Travel • Cameco
Saskatoon Blades • Saskatoon Police Services • Jersey City • SIIT • SOMA Studio Inc. • 25th Street
Theatre Centre Inc. • Wanuskewin Heritage Park • SaskEnergy • M. Bird • Reigning Cats & Dogs
Folk's Curling Corner • River Racquet Athletic Club • Vitality Massage • Folk's Finer Furs • Staples
• Royal Bank of Bank • Collector's Choice Art Gallery • SaskTel • Nora Rongve Interiors
Lakewood Indoor Tennis Centre • Saskatoon Community Service Village • Odeon Events Centre
National Council of Women of Canada • Saskatoon Colon Hydrotherapy & Wellness Spa
Federated Co-operatives Ltd. And thank you to all who attended the fundraiser and helped to
make this event a great success.



Thank You to the following who made donations
towards our Prairie Regional Meeting held in October:

CBC Radio Canada • SGI • Tourism Saskatoon
Gina Reid - Avon



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 21st 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 – 3rd Avenue South Saskatoon, SK S7K 1L8

Board of Directors

Merla Dyck	Member
Connie Lupichuk	Member
Barbara Mysko	Recorder
Nancy Poon	Co-Chair
Elizabeth Smith	Co-Chair
Ailsa Watkinson	CAEFS President
Linda Wood	Member
Joanne Ure	Treasurer
Caroleen Wright	Executive Director

Funders/Donors

Broadway Shoe Repair and Blundstone Boots
 Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies
 Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities
 for Women
 City of Saskatoon
 JBL Charitable Foundation Inc.
 Saskatchewan Law Foundation
 Saskatchewan Learning
 Proud member of the Saskatoon United Way

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 2nd, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, Dec 9th, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, Dec 16th, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, Dec 30th, 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 – 3rd Avenue South
 Saskatoon SK S7K 1L8

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

