



Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan

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Presenting our 2nd Annual

Rebels With A Cause

Wednesday, May 5, 2004
7:00 p.m.

Odeon Events Centre
241 - 2nd Avenue South

Tickets must be purchased in advance by April 30, 2004.

Tickets: \$35.00 (partial tax receipt)

For more information and tickets call:

934-4606

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Human Rights Commission finds systemic problems continue to affect correctional systems treatment of federally sentenced women.

In December 2000 the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan launched a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC). The complaint, filed under s. 5 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, was made on the basis of sexual discrimination as “women who... are sentenced to serve time in the federal penitentiary system do not receive the same quality of programming as men in similar situations.’

(the following is taken from the report prepared by the Human Rights Commission of Canada *Protecting Their Rights A Systemic Review of Human Rights in Correctional Services for Federally Sentenced Women*)

On International Women’s Day, March 8, 2001, the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) and other national organizations, including Amnesty International, Disabled Women’s Network Canada, Joint Effort, Strength in Sisterhood, the National Association of Women and the Law, National Council of Women of Canada, West Coast Prison Justice Society, and Women’s Legal Education Action Fund approached the CHRC with concerns about the treatment of federally sentenced women in federal institutional and community correctional services. Key issues raised included the treatment of incarcerated racialized women, women with disabilities, the classification system, programming, and the need for independent reporting. These partners claimed, “the government of Canada is discriminating against women serving two years or more, breaching their human rights. We are alleging that the discrimination is on the basis of sex, race and disability.”

Given the wide range of concerns raised, the CHRC agreed to conduct a broadly based review. This focused on Correctional

Service Canada’s (CSC) mandate to provide correctional services involving custody, supervision, rehabilitation and reintegration. The objective of the commission’s review was to identify ways of bringing the correctional system into line with the purpose of the Canadian Human Rights Act.

The Commission held initial discussions with Correctional Services Canada, the Elizabeth Fry Societies and the Office of the Correctional Investigator to clarify the scope of the review. In February 2002 a workshop was held for some 60 people from government, non-governmental organizations as well as previously incarcerated women. In November a roundtable discussion was held with 20 experts to discuss the question of redress and accountability procedures for alleged breaches of inmate rights.

CHRC conducted interviews with women inmates and staff at all the regional facilities for women, at men’s facilities where federally sentenced women were co-located and at Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge and with staff and residents at different types of community release facilities.

In January 2003 CHRC sent a discussion paper to 100 organizations and individuals working with or on behalf of federally sentenced women. With funding received from the Voluntary Sector Initiative, the Elizabeth Fry Society carried out its own consultations and helped non-governmental organizations to engage in policy dialog and prepare submissions. (Complete submissions can be accessed at www.elizabethfry.ca). Other organizations and individuals responded directly to the Commission’s consultation paper with written submissions.

The result of this two year process is the 82 page report *Protecting Their Rights A Systemic Review of Human Rights in Correctional Services for Federally Sentenced Women*. It identifies a range of concerns including security classification, health care, harassment policies, cross gender staffing, segregation, treatment of aboriginal women, and reintegration needs. The report makes nineteen recommendations, including that CSC:

- *Implement a needs-assessment process responsive to women who are Aboriginal, racialized, and/or have disabilities*
- *create a security classification tool explicitly for federally sentenced women*
- *examine alternatives to long term segregation for women offenders*
- *develop an action plan in each region to ensure needs of federally sentenced women on community release are met*
- *continue to ensure greater continuity between programs offered in the institution and those offered in the community*

The Canadian Human Rights Commission's review of the treatment of federally sentenced women in the provision of correctional services by the Correctional Service of Canada indicates that, while some progress has been made, systemic problems continue to affect the correctional system and the treatment of federally sentenced women. In the past ten years, some progress has been made towards achieving a system of correctional services that is responsive to the needs of all offenders, including women; however, further work needs to be done by the Government of Canada, including the Correctional Service.

The complete report is available on the internet at www.chrc-ccdp.ca. To order a copy of the report, send an e-mail to publications@chrc-ccdp.ca.

The following is taken from the speech by the Chief Commissioner, Mary Gusella, to the Global Colloquium on Creating a Level Playing Field for Women, March 5, 2004 in Washington D.C..

The Commission's mandate under the *Canadian Human Rights Act* also promotes gender diversity. One of the grounds of prohibited discrimination under the *Canadian Human Rights Act* is sex. Individual complaints of sex discrimination comprise 16% of the Commission's caseload – some 400 complaints per year. Over the year, the Commission has introduced a number of innovations to make it more efficient and effective. We have introduced a system of complaints triage to allow us to focus on those complaints which raise broad systemic human rights. We have also introduced creative alternatives to complaints to allow the Commission to use its limited resources most effectively.

To give you a concrete example in the area of gender equality – two years ago, the Elizabeth Fry Society, a prisoners rights advocacy group, wrote to the Commission seeking to file a complaint about systemic discrimination against women prisoners. The Commission decided that, rather than investigating the complaints as individual cases and litigating them at Tribunal, we would prepare a Special Report to Parliament. We chose this route because we would be better able to make systemic recommendations in a Special Report rather than at tribunal. We also considered that Parliament would be more effective in bringing about public debate and long-term change than the courts.

Last month we released the Special Report, *Protecting Their Rights*, with a number of sweeping recommendations for change to the correctional system to ensure the human rights of women prisoners were better protected. This is just one example of the innovative approaches to achieving full respect for women's rights under our legislation.

~ Rebels with a Cause ~

Compassion, Commitment, Concern, Feminism, Fervour and Action

At our 2nd Annual Rebels Fundraiser we are honored to recognize the following women for their impassioned work in the global community of women.

◆ Georgia BellWoodard

- scholar, author, feminist, socialist, mother, began her career as a nurse
- completed a Masters of Science Degree in Community Health and Epidemiology
- one time manager of the Healthy Baby, Healthy Mother Program
- currently on secondment from the Saskatoon Health Region Community Development Team and works as a research associate for the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU) with the Universities of Saskatchewan and Regina

◆ Virginia Fisher

- lawyer, educator, author, social activist, mother, business owner
- previous director of the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and outspoken advocate in the fight against domestic violence
- driving force behind the Hot Peach Pages which provides abuse information inside phone books across the province and on the Internet
- currently head of her own internet website development business

◆ Donna Heimbecker

- a Metis woman of Cree and German decent
- has worked as an educator, project manager, consultant, community developer
- as an Aboriginal role model and mentor, Donna educates and empowers people to pursue their personal and/or career goals, hopes, dreams and aspirations
- co-founder and current General Manager/Producer of the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company

◆ Deb Hopkins

- lawyer, mother, champion of the underdog, President of CUPE Union Local 1949
- hours of her free time are spent supporting numerous grassroots organizations
- spent several years employed at Co-op Housing helping people find affordable homes
- currently a lawyer with Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission, Deb ensures that her clients are treated fairly in the system and more importantly, treats them with the utmost respect and dignity

◆ Patricia Monture

- renowned Mohawk activist, author, scholar, lawyer, professor, mother
- promoter of human rights for incarcerated Aboriginal women
- consultant to CAEFS and the justice system in terms of aboriginal expertise, representation of women and policy development
- currently a professor with the Department of Native Studies at the University of Saskatchewan
- member of the Task Force on Federally Sentenced Women

◆ Michele Rowe

- public speaker, facilitator, advocate, mother, poet
- advocate for families and individuals with special needs
- currently on the Board of Directors of the Saskatoon Association for Community Living

◆ Delva J. Seavy-Rebin

- researcher, entrepreneur, management trainer, internet developer, author, mother
- over twenty years as an academic at the Universities of Saskatchewan, Regina, Carleton, St. Paul's and Ottawa in Physics and Communications
- contributing author for *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series
- pioneer internet entrepreneur and developer of distance learning system

Farewell...

The staff, board, volunteers and clients of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan are bidding farewell to Executive Director Judith Heminger. She leaves us to begin an exciting new venture as a business owner in southern Saskatchewan.

Over the past nine years she has been a voice and an advocate for women in conflict with the law. She has served on numerous committees and forums both provincially and federally. And for two years she served as the Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge representative, reporting to the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies in Ottawa.

She has worked for women in the community who are struggling to reintegrate, as well as those women still incarcerated – assuring their issues are raised and their voices are heard. And to many of those women, she has been a counsellor, advisor, champion and friend.

Judith is a great patron of live theatre and musicals so we hope she will be enticed to return to Saskatoon when the next big Broadway show rolls in.

We will miss you Judith but wish you great success and all the very best life has to offer. ☪



The key to realizing a dream is to focus not on success but significance – and then even the small steps and little victories along your path will take on greater meaning.

~ Oprah Winfrey

Welcome ...

We would like to welcome our new Volunteer Coordinator Regan Sloan. She started as Volunteer Coordinator in February of 2004.

Regan has lived in Saskatoon since 1993 when she moved here for university. In 1997 she completed her Bachelor of Psychology. Regan has no children, but one dog named Sam that she rescued from the pound. For the time being he's all the kid she needs. In her spare time she listens to music, tries to workout and spend time with her friends. In addition, she is a huge fan of Law and Order and CSI.

Regan first became involved with the Elizabeth Fry Society as a volunteer in 2000. As a volunteer she would help out at bingos, take residents on the recreation activity, be a 1:1 match and visiting with women at the Regional Psychiatric Centre. These valuable experiences turned into a fulfilling occupation for her in May of 2002 when she became a Casual Residence Supervisor at the Women's Community Training Residence. Regan has found it to be a stressful, but rewarding job. As the new Volunteer Coordinator, she finds it interesting to work in such a different setting and still have it be for such a great cause. ☪

My Five Little Warriors

I have five little warriors in my life.
My first born Leo is a kind, respectful man,
He is a symbol like the stars in the sky.
This is how much he means to me.
I have five little warriors in my life.
My second born Devon has a magical spirit,
his heart is made of gold, his smile is like a rainbow.
This is how much he means to me.
I have five little warriors in my life.
My third born Alex has the dragon spirit,
He is powerful and a joyful man.
This is how much he means to me.
I have five little warriors in my life.
My fourth born Crystal is like a diamond,
Her laughter is music, her beauty is light.
I have five little warriors in my life.
My fifth born Romand is the horse spirit,
He is adventurous and very affectionate.
I have five little warriors in my life.
I am very proud of who they are.

~ Anita W.



Nature As I See It

As I look to the South, I see rain clouds,
I smell the rain, I feel it on my face,
once it stops raining I feel healed.
As I look to the North, I see a thunderstorm,
I feel powerful like the wind,
I feel mysterious when I see lightening.
As I look to the East, I see a beautiful sunny day,
I feel magical like the rays of sun,
I feel overjoyed by the warmth of the sun.
As I look to the West, I see snow gently falling,
I feel creative and at peace,
I see every snowflake as an individual being.
Nature as I see it.

~Anita W.

Inmate Support Group at Edmonton Institution For Women

“My name is Mary Parisien. I’m an inmate currently serving my sentence at EIFW. During my last sentence in 1996, I started a support group called *You Are Not Alone*. This is a support group for H.I.V. inmates that need to know there are others out there like themselves and there is someone out there who cares and knows first hand what they are going through.”

Along with the support group, which is connected via mail, Mary puts out a newsletter called **Okemah News**. She is looking for short stories, poems, jokes and drawings that can be shared with readers. Mary also needs help with donations of stamps, envelopes and paper.

If you would like more information write:

Inmate Support
c/o Mary Parisien
E.I.F.W. Max
11151 – 178th Street
Edmonton AB T5S 2H9



In Memoriam

Norma-Jean Ouellette
(nee Fortner)

1954 – 2004

No matter how tough things got for Norma Jean, she always seemed to take a positive approach. Several years ago Norma Jean designed our “Freedom for Women” T-shirt and we used that logo on WCTR brochures as well. Pleasant, kind and funny, she was one of those rare individuals you never forget.

“Good by Norma Jean ... your candle burned out long before your legend ever did.”

(lyrics from *Good Bye Norma Jean* by Elton John)

We would like to thank City Highlights for including our *Rebels With A Cause* event in their online events calendar.

City Highlights provides free event listings for non-profit groups/organizations, community/social groups, personal events, and Business/Corporate sponsors.

www.cityhighlights.ca

Your online entertainment
and event calendar

Tel: 227 – 8818

Fax: 249-4459

E-mail: cityhighlights@sasktel.net



Self-acceptance

Have patience with all things but first with yourself. Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being.

You’re a perfectly valuable, creative, worthwhile person simply because you exist. And no amount of triumphs or tribulations can ever change that. Unconditional self-acceptance is the core of a peaceful mind.

- St. Francis de Sales



Thank you to all those generous people, organizations and businesses who helped make Christmas a special time for our clients and their families.

- Dawn McCarthy • Marilyn Boechler • Norma Sim • Tillie Taylor
- Elsie Warkentin • Elmer & Elvina Krause • Phyllis Smith
- Henry & Agatha Wiebe • Grace-Westminster United Church
- Bethany Manor • Dalmeny Community Church
- Saskatoon Fabutan staff and customers

We would like to say a special thank you to Jennie Ganshorn and the residents of the Rosthern Menonite Home. They helped us provide Christmas gifts to children whose moms are incarcerated in the province. Without their assistance Christmas would not have been as bright for many children.



We would also like to thank those who have made donations to our society:

- Betty Carnie • Frances McLean • Carolyn Taylor • Lynda Newson • Virginia Fisher
- Doreen Hudson • St. David's Trinity Pastoral Charge • All Saints Anglican Church
- Esther Unit, St. Martin's United Church Women • Glenda Brown • Velma Hale
- Margaret P. Smith • Judith Heminger • St. Martin's United Church Women
- United Way - Regina • Javal's Size 14 Plus • Kathyne Funk
- United Way of Saskatoon Donor Designation Program

Cloth for Kids Program – Westmount Community School

Family Literacy Program - Frank and Ellen Remai Foundation

Challenge is coming up against a fear and praying for willingness, courage not to do what's comfortable and familiar, instead do what's best in order to grow and change.

- Pamela Cooper



Elizabeth Fry Society
of Saskatchewan

Invites you to our

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday June 29, 2004

6:00 p.m.

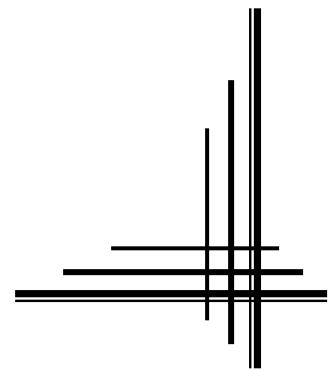
Location: The Refinery
609 Dufferin Avenue, Saskatoon

Guest Speaker: Ailsa Watkinson

Topic: The Canadian Human Rights Systemic Investigation
of Conditions for Women in Prison

- Refreshments will be served •

For more information call
934-4606





~ A Reminder - We've MOVED ~

Our new address is:

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan
201, 165 – 3rd Avenue South
Saskatoon SK S7K 1L8

Phone: 934-4606

Fax: 652-2933

E-mail: efry@sasktel.net

Web: www.elizabethfrysask.org



Membership Application

- Under/unemployed \$ 5
- Individual \$10
- 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

Cathy Bohachik	Vice-President
Merla Dyck	Secretary
Brenda Longman	Member
Emma Mantee	Member
Nancy Poon	Co-Chair/Treasurer
Elizabeth Smith	Co-Chair
Ailsa Watkinson	CAEFS President

Main Office Staff

Maria Bertrand	Women’s Courtworker
Judith Heminger	Executive Director
Regan Sloan	Volunteer Coordinator
Sharon Peterson	Administrative Assistant
Julia Price	Research Coordinator

Women’s Community Training Residence Staff

Kim Barnes	Case Management Worker
Beth Burnett Figley	Residence Director
Cindy Carbno	Case Management/Designate
Kim Donald	Casual Supervisor
Deborah Ernst	Program Coordinator
Kathy Friesen	Casual Supervisor
Risha Hughes	Casual Supervisor
Shauna Kennon	Casual Supervisor
Margo Kirzinger	Case Management Worker
Marcy McLaughlin	Casual Supervisor
AmyJo Norman	Casual Supervisor
Sheryl Olson	Administrative Assistant
Nicole Shewchuk	Casual Supervisor
Regan Sloan	Casual Supervisor
Tanya Wapass	Casual Supervisor
Sylvia Wilkes	Residence Cook
Katie Poundmaker	Residence Elder

Funders/Donors

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

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.

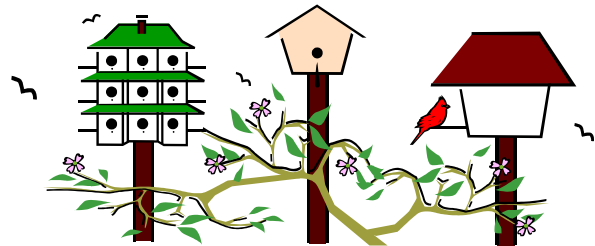
The Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan and Downtown Bingo Association...

working together to raise funds for the Society

Upcoming dates are:

Friday, April 30th, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Friday, May 7th, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Friday, May 14th, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Friday, May 21st, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Friday, May 28th, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Friday, June 4th, 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.



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.