



# PREVpectives

## Networks of Centres of Excellence - New Initiative



## Volume 4, Issue 2

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### A Message from the Scientific Co-Directors

A warm thanks to all those who are involved in or support PREVNet. We have had an outstanding year of progress in promoting safe and healthy relationships and want to update you on how we have been working with researchers and partners across the country.

We have just come through Bullying Awareness Week in Canada. This year, Bullying Awareness Week was particularly relevant in light of the numerous suicides linked to homophobic bullying. PREVNet's partnership with Family Channel has opened so many opportunities to share PREVNet messages and our scientific perspective. This year, we consulted on an episode of *Wingin' It*, which you can watch on the Family Channel website (<http://www.family.ca/video/#video=2386>). Family Channel reaches into 6 million homes in Canada with positive messages about healthy relationships and "Standing Up" to prevent bullying.

Our funding as a Networks of Centres of Excellence – New Initiative is coming to an end. When a door closes, we work hard to find another that will open for PREVNet. We owe a debt of thanks to the Vice-Presidents of York and Queen's who advocated for a NCE funding opportunity that might be relevant to PREVNet. We prepared an application for the new NCE-Knowledge Mobilization grant and are delighted to let you know that our Letter of Intent (LOI) was moved to the next stage, so we are now preparing the full application. The NCE-KM will take a different shape than our NCE-NI activities. We will partner with government NGO, and corporate leaders to expand our reach and our potential for achieving social change. We have identified 11 KM projects to be co-created and implemented. Each signature project represents the priorities of our receptor communities and will be co-led by a Project Partner and a PREVNet researcher. Many thanks to the partners and researchers who have been involved in this process. We could not do it without you!

In addition to pursuing funding through the NCE, we are actively seeking funding opportunities for PREVNet projects with our partners. We are currently preparing a LOI for a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership grant with the Canadian Red Cross. We are proposing a partnership project examining the community mobilization process within the Walking the Prevention Circle program for Aboriginal communities in Canada and Australia. We are indebted to Shelley Cardinal of the Red Cross, Kathy Absolon, Susan Dion, and Claire Crooks for their leadership on this application.



From left: PREVNet Scientific Co-Director, Dr. Wendy Craig, Chair of PREVNet's Board of Directors, Mr. David Sculthorpe, PREVNet's Partnership Director, Dr. Joanne Cummings, and PREVNet Scientific Co-Director, Dr. Debra Pepler, attend PREVNet's 5th annual conference in Hamilton, Ontario.

In closing it is important to note that none of this would be possible without our amazing team. We welcome Kelly Petrunka back to PREVNet and cherish her organization and leadership. Cathy Loblaw has been invaluable in spearheading projects with the Public Health Agency Canada and the Wynford Group, as well as opening many other doors. Cathy will remain on our Board, as she takes her amazing networking skills and enthusiasm to the Ronald McDonald Foundation. Stacey Garwood has been the glue that holds PREVNet together on a day-to-day basis in the Kingston office. She is so gentle and effective with reminders and general organization. Joanne Cummings has been an invaluable "third leg on the stool", collaborating fully with us on the NCE-KM application and the PREVNet publication series. She has taken the lead in our HRSDC Community of Practice grant, in work with PREVNet graduate students, and in our partnerships. As we finish the first NCE-NI phase of PREVNet, we wish to extend our deepest appreciation to all the PREVNet partners, researchers and graduate students who have worked together to promote safe and healthy relationships for Canadian children and youth. We have come a long way in the past five years, but there is still much work to be done to ensure that all children and youth are living in healthy relationships in all the places where they live, learn, play, and work.

# PREVpectives

## PREVNet's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference "Healthy Relationships, Healthy Development, Healthy Communities"



PREVNet's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference "Healthy Relationships, Healthy Development, Healthy Communities"

was hosted in partnership with the Community-University Research Alliance for the Prevention of Bullying ([mac-cura.ca](http://mac-cura.ca)) at McMaster University in May. We thank Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt and her MAC-CURA team for their amazing strengths and contributions that made this conference such a great success.

We gratefully acknowledge our conference sponsors: Queen's, York and McMaster Universities; Tourism Hamilton; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Networks of Centres of Excellence. We also extend a heartfelt thank you to Dee Gordon (from [www.procameragirl.com](http://www.procameragirl.com)) who did an incredible job of capturing the excitement and energy from our conference so beautifully in photographs.



From Left: Dr. Patricia McDougall, Dr. Shelley Hymel and Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt

### Here are a few highlights of our conference!



**Hands-on learning experiences** offered in 24 workshops specializing in Children's Mental Health & Healthy Relationships, Best Practices for Dealing with Challenging Behaviour in the Early Years, Aboriginal Children and Youth, Bullying and Clinical Practice, Neurobiology of Abuse,

Working with Aggressive and Delinquent Youth, The Role of Adults in Promoting Healthy Relationships, and Building Healthy Communities.

**Networking opportunities** for our Graduate Students and National Partners to share their work.



PREVNet Graduate Students attend the Wine and Cheese reception at McMaster's University Club



Nina Jetha (Public Health Agency of Canada)

**Nina Jetha from Public Health Agency of Canada** provided an overview of the Canadian Best Practices Portal. The Portal is a virtual front door to community and population health interventions related to chronic disease prevention and health promotion. We encourage everyone to visit this site <http://cbpp-pcpe.phac-aspc.gc.ca/>

**A distinguished expert international panel** on violence prevention. Thank you for generously sharing with our network and for the seeds of change you planted at our conference.

- Dr. Rowell Huesmann, University of Michigan
- Dr. Marion Underwood, University of Texas at Dallas
- Dr. Charles Cunningham, McMaster University
- Dr. Debra Pepler, York University



Dr. Charles Cunningham, Dr. Rowell Huesmann and Dr. Marion Underwood participate in a panel discussion on violence prevention during day one's proceedings.



Dr. Cindy Blackstock delivers her powerful keynote address to conference participants on day two.

**Keynote Address by Dr. Cindy Blackstock, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada** who encouraged all of us to help ensure First Nations children receive equitable child welfare services on reserves. Here's how you can help: [www.fnwitness.ca](http://www.fnwitness.ca)

**Heartfelt and moving presentations by Rory Butler and Cindy Gale from Your Life Counts.**

For more information about the important work they do, please visit: [www.yourlifecounts.org/](http://www.yourlifecounts.org/)



Cindy Gale and Rory Butler of Your Life Counts receive special recognition for their excellence in work with youth and suicide prevention

Congratulations to Your Life Counts for receiving the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention's 2010 President's Award for "outstanding service to the people of Canada."



Special guest Nico Archambault speaks with PREVNet conference participants and takes a moment to sign a few autographs.

**Special appearance by Nico Archambault** (winner of CTV's *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*) and Katia Piccolino from Montreal clothing company TXT Carbon. They presented a generous donation to PREVNet from the sales of the "Stand Up, Rise Above" bullying prevention t-shirt designed by TXT Carbon and Nico to raise awareness about bullying and to raise funds for PREVNet.



TXT Carbon's Katia Piccolino joins PREVNet Scientific Co-Directors, Dr. Wendy Craig and Dr. Debra Pepler



Silent auction winner of Nico Archambault's autographed "Stand Up, Rise Above" t-shirts.

And we are grateful to the **three local youth musical performance groups** for sharing their time, talents and enthusiasm.



Ancaster Senior Public Concert Band



Father Henry Carr Drum Line Band



Barton Secondary School Drum Band

## PREVNet Awarded Human Resources and Skills Development Canada Grant

Supported by funding from the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program, we are thrilled to announce that we have an unprecedented opportunity to focus on work being done by three of our network organizations – Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Canada, Scouts Canada, and the Canadian Red Cross. Through a 3 year contribution of \$600,000 we will be able to apply PREVNet's model of knowledge sharing, through our four strategy pillars of education & training; assessment valuation; prevention & intervention; and policy & advocacy to strengthen and enhance the programs of these three organizations.

The primary objective of this project is to enhance the practice of adult professionals and volunteers working with children and youth in each of the three national non-government organizations. Adult leaders play a critical role socializing children and youth: they serve as role models, mentors, guides, supports, and teachers. They need extensive and explicit training about how healthy development depends on healthy relationships to be

effective in promoting healthy and preventing unhealthy relationships for children and youth. Working together we are creating a Community of Practice and are developing training and programming resources for adult leaders. We are leveraging each partner's strong tradition of program success to effectively support adults in their role of promoting healthy relationships and development for children and youth. The primary beneficiaries of this project are the adults working in the partner organizations as professionals or volunteers. Children and youth, who experience improved social relationships in these community programs, will be the secondary beneficiaries.

We are incredibly grateful to the NCE for their continued support and we are equally grateful to the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program for their vote of confidence in our collective work, for their leadership in enabling this new funding model, and for the learnings and outcomes that are now possible through this Community of Practice.

# PREVpectives

## PREVNet's Featured Partner Organization, Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children

PREVNet graduate student member, Savitri Khanna, discussed Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC) PREVNet partnership with Ms. Kathy Vandergrift, chairperson – CCRC.

CCRC is a network of Canadian organizations and individuals who are dedicated to the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Canada. The treaty to protect and support the rights of children was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in November, 1989. The Coalition was formed right after CRC was adopted in 1989. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the guiding framework for all activities of the Coalition. The Coalition is an umbrella organization of 50 NGOs. The Coalition's mandate is: awareness through education; advocacy through policy analysis and engagement with decision-makers; and monitoring implementation of the Convention.

The Coalition creates awareness about the Convention on the Rights of the Children through education. The Coalition supports member NGOs' initiatives by sharing resources, practices, joint initiatives, and providing educational materials to the member NGOs for this purpose. The member NGOs are encouraged to create awareness about the Convention in the society, community and schools. To facilitate this purpose, the NGOs are encouraged to participate in conferences organized by the Coalition and also to use publications by CCRC. Ms. Vandergrift adds 75% of the young people in Canada are not aware of their rights. Their **advocacy** work is a review of public policies concerning children's rights at national, provincial, and local level to promote consistency with the Convention. Their **monitoring** work focuses on assessing implementation of the Convention in Canada. Canada submitted its official Third and Fourth Report on implementation of the Convention in November, 2009 and the coalition is currently working with a wide range of NGOs to produce a civil society report for discussion in Canada and submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Ms. Vandergrift is pleased with the last year's achievements. She sees growing awareness that incorporating children's rights adds value to members' programs. There is growing interest at local, municipal level, and in academic fields, regarding incorporating children's rights in their work. York University has a Child Study Program and they are incorporating children's rights in their program; University of Ottawa has a Child Rights Laboratoire, and Carleton University has the Landon Pearson Research Centre on the Rights of Children.

In some countries (e.g., the U.K.), they have a very successful approach to education which builds children's rights into the curriculum. It is based on the principles of "Respect, Responsibility, and Rights" and has been very successful in reducing bullying and building healthy and respectful relationships. In B.C., there is a pilot project based on this principle and there are plans to expand the program.



Canadian Coalition  
for the Rights of Children

Coalition canadienne  
pour les droits des enfants

The Coalition hosted a conference at the University of Toronto in February, 2009 on the Best Interests of the Child, one of the basic principles in the Convention. In 2010 the Coalition worked with the University of Ottawa to host a conference on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention. The goal was to reflect on the progress and challenges in implementation of the Convention.

Ms. Vandergrift believes that rights-based approaches can help bridge federal and provincial governments in Canada, for example Jordan's Principle which says that best interests of the child should come first before the federal and provincial funding disputes. The Coalition is preparing a civil society report on the state of children's rights in Canada that will foster public discussion in Canada, and they are also participating in the review of Canada's record before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Other noteworthy accomplishments are drawing attention to establishing guidelines regarding tasers and children's rights, intervention in the Supreme Court hearing on Omar Khadr, and intervention in the polygamy reference case in the BC Supreme Court, to promote greater recognition of children's rights in Canadian courts. The coalition also advocates for a National Children's Commission, and is pleased that last year M.P. Marc Garneau introduced a private member's bill to establish a Children's Commissioner.

PREVNet's focus on Respectful Relationship is consistent with respect for the rights of children and teaching children to respect the rights of others. The Convention is a very holistic document; both parents and children should respect each other to build a healthy relationship. Respecting each other's rights should start early when the children are young. The Convention highlights the importance of building healthy and respectful relationships.

My goal for our partnership with PREVNet is that more members will value and incorporate children's rights approaches in their work. If the Convention is implemented in their work, it will reduce bullying. PREVNet can support our work through access to academic research. Through our collaboration with PREVNet we hope to increase awareness and knowledge of the Convention and its application to the prevention of bullying.

## BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK 2010

Bullying Awareness Week, November 2010 was a great success, enabling PREVNet to reach out to Canadians to continue conversations about the issue of bullying. Many of PREVNet's researchers and graduate students participated in Bullying Awareness Week by giving presentations in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Prince Edward Island just to name a few locations!

PREVNet was thrilled to collaborate with Family Channel in its Stand UP!™ to bullying campaign for the 4<sup>th</sup> year! We thank Dr. Shelley Hymel and Dilys Haner for representing PREVNet in Family Channel's **Stand UP! Coast 2 Coast** tour at four schools selected by a contest which saw over 480 kids enter to win a rally for their school by telling Family Channel what they did to Stand UP!



It is everyone's responsibility to stand up against bullying.

**Stand UP! against bullying during Bullying Awareness Week, November 15-21**

In the majority of cases, when bystanders intervene in bullying situations, bullying stops within ten seconds. PREVNet is proud to partner with Family Channel to educate students, teachers and parents across Canada about bullying prevention and the promotion of healthy relationships. We all have the power to Stand UP!

More information on Bullying Awareness Week is available at [family.ca](http://family.ca)

Visit [www.prevnet.ca](http://www.prevnet.ca) to find information on bullying and downloadable toolkits for parents, children and professionals. PREVNet is Canada's strategy to develop a network of researchers and organizations partnering to promote positive relationships and to eliminate violence for all children and youth.

Online, the Stand UP! minisite on Family.ca features materials prepared by PREVNet including: bullying prevention tip sheets, educator's guides to accompany the special Wingin' It episode and message boards.

New this year, Family Channel hosted two live online chats on to generate discussion about bullying and discuss ways to address the issue. Dr. Joanne Cummings, Clinical Psychologist and Partnership Director at PREVNet was on hand to respond to student's questions and concerns.

**Thank you to Family Channel and Movie Entertainment Magazine for helping PREVNet promote Bullying Awareness Week in the November issue of Movie Entertainment.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### PROMOTING CHILDREN'S HUMAN RIGHTS



Please join us in celebrating and promoting the rights of the child! In honour of National Child Day 2010 – celebrated every year on November 20<sup>th</sup> – PREVNet, UNICEF Canada, YooMagazine, and the Public Health Agency of Canada have worked together to create a series of youth-friendly and engaging articles about the rights and freedoms that are promised to children under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Children under the age of 18 are entitled to all of the human rights defined in the Convention but most children (and adults!) are not aware of it. Our goal is to create a forum for educating and dialoguing with youth online about their rights.

Through a direct link to YooMagazine – [www.childandyouthisrights.net](http://www.childandyouthisrights.net) - children and youth will now be able to access information that explains what children's rights are, why children and youth should care about their rights, and what they can do if their rights are being violated. Empowering and thought-provoking, the articles use real-life stories and impactful graphics to help dramatize the importance of rights for children.

We want to reach as many youth as possible and encourage them to visit the YooMagazine link and read the articles. The link will go live January 2011, so send it along to all the youth you know and adults too!

### CANADIAN SUMMIT ON WEIGHT BIAS AND DISCRIMINATION JANUARY 17TH, 2011

We are excited to share news of a weight bias and discrimination event that PREVNet is co-hosting with the Canadian Obesity Network on January 17, 2011 in Toronto. We hope that you consider attending this inaugural meeting of the National Council on Weight Bias. The first task of the council is to act in an advisory capacity and make recommendations for research and action that will address weight bias and discrimination in Canada. For more information, please visit: <http://www.obesitynetwork.ca/page.aspx?page=2406&app=172&cat1=442&tp=15&lk=no&menu=47>

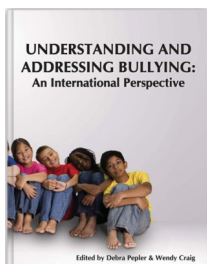
# PREVspectives

## UPCOMING EVENTS (continued):

### PREVNET'S BOOK LAUNCH FEBRUARY 2011

PREVNet is pleased to announce the release of the 3<sup>rd</sup> volume in the PREVNet Series: ***Creating a World Without Bullying***. This book contains the latest scientific knowledge from top Canadian and International researchers who participated in our 2008 and 2009 Conferences, distilled into a useful reference source for anyone who works with children and youth. To order a book, please visit [www.prevnet.ca](http://www.prevnet.ca)

## AVAILABLE NOW: PREVNet Volumes 1 & 2



**Volume 1**



**Volume 2**



### PREVNet Book Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Volume 1: Understanding and Addressing Bullying: An International Perspective** Number of copies: \_\_\_\_\_ (incl. taxes & delivery) \$29.95 CAD

**Volume 2: Rise Up for Respectful Relationships: Prevent Bullying** Number of copies: \_\_\_\_\_ (incl. taxes & delivery) \$29.95 CAD

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### PREVNet has a "Donate Now" button on our website courtesy of Canadahelps.org.

Interested donors can simply click on the donate button to contribute to PREVNet and support the amazing work that PREVNet's staff, national organizations, graduate students and researchers are doing to end bullying in Canada.



Donors will automatically receive a charitable tax receipt from Canadahelps.org.

Visit [www.prevnet.ca](http://www.prevnet.ca) and check out our Donate Now button in the top right hand corner.

**Send the link to a friend!**