

PREVspectives

Networks of Centres of Excellence—New Initiative  **Volume 3, Issue 2**

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New Beginnings—A Message from the Scientific Co-Directors



Scientific Co-Directors Dr. Wendy Craig and Dr. Debra Pepler

Where has the summer gone! It seems like our 4th Annual PREVNet conference was just yesterday! We would like to thank all of you for joining us this year at the Conference, which we believe was not only our biggest yet, but our best. We are grateful for your participation, support, and continual involvement in PREVNet. We are also grateful to our staff for doing such amazing work to ensure that the conference ran smoothly and efficiently. With the change of seasons, there are always transitions. This year at PREVNet we are experiencing many transitions. First, Caroline Teske and Jennifer Ma will be moving on to do their Master's of Social Work at University of Toronto. We truly value their contributions to PREVNet and cannot imagine the organization without them, but at the same time celebrate the next chapter in their professional development. Also, Peter Aitken left us this summer to follow his dream of working at a housing development company. We wish him well in this endeavour. We are pleased to announce that Stacey Garwood is replacing Caroline and welcome her to our organization. We are currently restructuring, and hope to have two more very exciting announcements regarding personnel at PREVNet. So stay tuned!!

After serving as the first Chair of the PREVNet Board of Directors since our founding in 2006, John Bankes will be stepping down. We are indebted to John for his tremendous dedication, generosity, and commitment as he shepherded PREVNet through its earliest stages. John has graciously agreed to stay on as Past Chair for one more year, and we are grateful for his continuing guidance and wisdom. We are pleased to announce that David Sculthorpe has generously agreed to become the Chair of the Board for PREVNet. David has been a member of the Board for the last three years and been an active supporter and fundraiser for PREVNet. He is currently the CEO of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We are truly privileged and honoured for all of his contributions and look forward to his leadership in the years to come .

As many of you are aware, PREVNet's funding ends March 31, 2010. We are actively engaging in efforts to ensure the sustainability of PREVNet and have some potentially exciting opportunities that will aid this effort. For example, the Networks of Centres of Excellence evaluation of the New Initiatives, such as PREVNet, was recently completed and indicated that there is strong evidence that the NI program adds value for multidisciplinary and collaborative work in Canada involving academics and receptor communities. Furthermore, the evaluation indicated that the NCE-NI networks have reached a level of credibility and momentum that will clearly lead to important benefits. As a consequence, they have invited the NI networks to apply for an additional year of funding. We are grateful to the program for supporting the excellent work that we do together through this initiative and we have developed an application for an additional year of funding.

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PREVpectives

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When we initiated PREVNet we could have never anticipated the level of need, engagement and value the network researchers and organizations have come to rely and depend on from PREVNet. The connections we have created to bridge practice and knowledge are deep and lasting. The outcomes and achievements of these new cross-sector collaborations have only begun to emerge and will continue to pay dividend for years to come. We were both truly humbled and honoured at the Annual General Meeting during the discussion of PREVNet, its value,

and its future. The NCE funding, with the privilege of serving as a Centre of Excellence, has both enabled and inspired a generation of researchers and organizations to work together in new and innovative ways that are truly, changing the socio-cultural fabric of Canada. Through NCE funding, we have created a unique Canadian network that is changing the country and the world in big and small ways each and everyday. PREVNet is now at a critical point of development where we are more committed than ever to building a sustainable infrastructure so that PREVNet can continue to lead Canada and the world as a centre of excellence,

bringing to life our vision that: *Everyone will live, learn, play and work in safe and healthy relationships.* In our next year, together with our Board, we will be actively seeking funding to sustain PREVNet for many years to come. We have both never been more committed to PREVNet and feel so honoured to work with all of you.

So while this is a period of transition, it is also a window of opportunity, growth, and development filled with excitement and optimism. We look forward to continuing work with each of you for many years to come – because we have only just begun!

A Year In Review—PREVNet's Activities in 2009

During 2009 PREVNet has collaborated with our partners to develop tools, programs, and presentations for public education. We have mobilized knowledge across different populations, groups, and fields.

The Girls United Training Module for Guiders was developed by PREVNet researcher Dr. Tina Daniels and graduate student Danielle Quigley in 2007. Over the last year, a new online version of the Girls United Training Module for Guiders has been developed (in partnership with PREVNet) with the Learning Library, funded by Girl Guides, in order to increase accessibility to the training for Guiders.

PREVNet has initiated ACCELERATE Canada internships with Family Channel, the Red Cross, and Practiquist, each involving a PREVNet graduate student who will strengthen and enhance this very productive knowledge translation partnership. There are opportunities for additional ACCELERATE internships with our partners. Please contact us if you are interested.

PREVNet is involved in ongoing consultation and collaboration with two electronic gaming companies Practiquist Inc. (targeting children in grades four and five) and Zapdramatic (targeting young

adolescents), to educate youth about bullying and effective response strategies, and to develop healthy relationship skills. This year, in Toronto, PREVNet led a week-long evaluation and testing of the Zapdramatic computer game, "Sir Basel Pike Public School", an interactive narrative role playing game that explores the dynamics of bullying among boys and girls aged 10-14 .

PREVNet researchers and graduate students (Alexander Sutherland and Lindsay Rosval) created a web-based program evaluation for the Canadian Red Cross, RespectED Program and web-based support materials to support the program.

PREVNet has worked closely with Respect in Sport (RiS) as an advisor and advocate. RiS has developed an e-learning program with the goal of training over 300,000 coaches and youth leaders in Canada (to date they have trained more than 20,000). PREVNet researchers have been working with RiS on an evaluation of this training, led by Rashmeen Nirmal, a graduate student at UBC. A new Respect in the Workplace (RiW) program developed in consultation with the Red Cross and PREVNet will be introduced within the next year. Along with informing program development,

PREVNet researchers are working with RiW to assess program effectiveness. PREVNet has acted as an advocate for RiS, building links with government. Through a partnership among RiS, Red Cross and PREVNet, the Respect Group is extending their work to develop a new Respect in School program and outreach to the U.S.

As part of a collaborative effort by the PREVNet Aboriginal Working Group, PREVNet researchers and the Canadian Red Cross, a team has been developed to work on program evaluation for Walking the Prevention Circle (WTPC). WTPC is a violence prevention program specifically designed to support Aboriginal communities in promoting healthy relationships and healthy development for their children and youth.

Dr. Claire Crooks, a PREVNet researcher with the Aboriginal Working Group co-authored Engaging and empowering Aboriginal youth: A toolkit for service providers published in March 2009. PREVNet was a project partner, along with two PREVNet NGO partners (the Red Cross and the RCMP). Three other PREVNet researchers contributed to the project. This resource, one of the most extensive of its kind will be adopted nationally by the RCMP in 2009.

PREVNet's 4th Annual General Meeting and Conference

PREVNet's 4th AGM and Conference took place between June 3 to 5 at the Metro Convention Centre in Toronto. This year the conference had a developmental theme with workshops specializing in areas across the lifespan. These included: Infancy and Early Childhood, Middle Childhood and Adolescence, Marginalized and GLBTQ Youth, How to Engage Youth, Workplace Harassment, Elder Abuse, Aboriginal, and Electronic/New Media.

There were over 400 attendees (9% increase from 2008) including: 30 PREVNet researchers, 39 PREVNet graduate students, 56 PREVNet NGO representatives, and over 240 members of the general public - government officials, teachers, counselors, community representatives, law enforcement and youth leaders. Twenty-four training workshops were held, led by PREVNet researchers, NGO's and graduate students. Ratings were positive for the all 3 days of the event: The Annual General Meeting (June 3, 4) was rated 4.5 (on a 5 point scale, 1 = Poor/Disagree, 5 = Excellent/Agree) for the 2 days of networking and intensive working sessions and the Conference (June 5) was rated 4.3, which included plenary keynote addresses and 24 training workshops.



L-R: Scientific Co-Director Dr. Wendy Craig, Partnership Director Dr. Joanne Cummings, Scientific Co-Director Dr. Debra Pepler, and inaugural Board Chair Mr. John Banks



L-R: Graduate Students Ms. Kailey Patterson, Ms. Danielle Quigley, and Ms. Catherine Cappadocia



Ms. Gisele Yasmeen,
Vice-President, Partnerships,
Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council



Participants at the PREVNet 4th Annual General Meeting and Conference held at the Metro Convention Centre in Toronto

PREVspectives

PREVNet's 4th Annual General Meeting and Conference



Clockwise from the top right: Mr. Shane Koyczan, Poet; PREVNet Board Chair Mr. David Schulthorpe; PREVNet Researcher Dr. John LeBlanc, Dalhousie University and Ms. Sara Esam, Networks of Centres of Excellence; L-R Ms. Lisa Evanoff, Canadian Red Cross, PREVNet Project Manager Mr. Peter Aitken, PREVNet Board Member Ms. Shelley Cardinal, Canadian Red Cross and Ms. Terrellyn Fearn, Canadian Red Cross; Participants at the Wine and Cheese Reception, The National Club

PREVNet Working Group Literature Reviews

Over the past year, 10 graduate students conducted comprehensive literature reviews on the topics relevant to each of the working groups, which include Aboriginal, Assessment, Cyber-Risk, Education and Training, Policy, Prevention and Intervention, Social Aggression and Workplace Harassment, as well as a review of knowledge translation research.

The articles and materials form one of the most comprehensive specialized databases in our field. This literature review will be available to our researchers and graduate students, as well as to the partners in the network. It will provide a strong empirical foundation for research questions, program development, policies and knowledge mobilization activities for years to come.

We are currently working on making the literature reviews available on our website. The reports and article databases will be available to PREVNet members in the Members Only section of the website. All of the materials will be downloadable. We will be sending out an e-mail to members once this process has been completed.

PREVNet—Bullying Awareness Week 2009

We are excited to announce preliminary plans for Bullying Awareness Week 2009 which takes place during the week of November 15-21. For the third year, PREVNet will continue to collaborate with Family Channel in its campaign to increase awareness and motivate children to Stand UP for each other. Go to <http://www.familychannel.ca> in mid-September to learn about this year's campaign! Through Family Channel, we have also been working with Nico Archambault, the winner of So You Think You Can Dance Canada Season 1, and TXT Carbon Clothing Company who are developing a T-shirt that will be unveiled during Bullying Awareness Week. The proceeds from the sale of the T-shirts will be donated to PREVNet.

We will be distributing the PREVspectives Special Edition: Bullying Awareness Week 2009 in October. Please send activities you will be involved in to Stacey Garwood at stacey.garwood@queensu.ca.

PREVNet Welcomes New Members

PREVNet is pleased to welcome new researchers and partners who have joined us in 2009.

Canadian Researchers:

Dr. John Freeman
Professor, Faculty of Education,
School of Kinesiology and Health
Studies, Queen's University

Dr. Parbudyal Singh
Associate Professor, Human
Resources Management,
York University

Dr. Andrea Slane
Associate Professor, Faculty of
Criminology, Justice and Policy
Studies, University of Ontario Institute
of Technology

Dr. Susan Stern
Associate Professor, Faculty of Social
Work, University of Toronto

Canadian Organizations:

Canada's National Ballet School
<http://www.nbs-enb.ca>

Please visit <http://prevnet.ca/Partners/Researchers/tabid/115/Default.aspx> for more information on PREVNet's Researchers.

Please visit <http://prevnet.ca/Partners/Organizations/tabid/116/Default.aspx> for more information on PREVNet's NGOs.

PREVNet Website Multiple Downloads Option Now Functioning

In an effort to address the functionality of the downloads section on our website, PREVNet has worked with our website developer to add a multiple downloads option.

Items PREVNet offers for Free Download:

PREVNet Key Messages

PREVNet PREVspectives Newsletters

PREVNet Research Summaries

PREVNet Toolkits

How to Download:

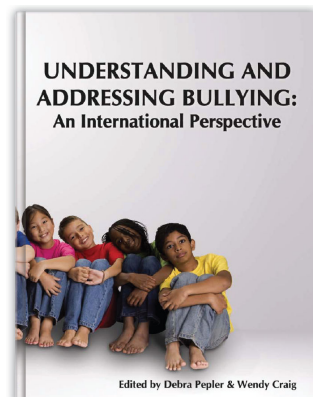
Go to <http://prevnet.ca/Downloads/tabid/192/Default.aspx>

You can choose to search the items according to any one of these four categories listed to the left. Also, you may choose to sort the list of items according to their title or date posted.

Once you have located an item you would like to download, click on the download button in the bottom right-hand corner of the box. This will link you to an item survey. We ask that

you complete this survey when you download an item so that we can learn for whom the materials that we developed are most relevant.

***Note:** You can now download multiple items for each session visit on PREVNet's website. You will only be asked to fill out the survey once to download your first item and then you will be able to use the back button on your browser to select more items to download. The next time you logon to PREVNet's website, you will be asked to fill out the survey once again.



PREVNet's First Book Available for Purchase

PREVNet is pleased to announce the release of the first volume in the PREVNet Series: Understanding and Addressing Bullying: An International Perspective. This volume is based on the workshops presented at PREVNet's First Annual conference in May 2006.

Please look for the second volume of the PREVNet series based on the workshops from our Second Annual conference in May 2007 "Rise Up for Respectful Relationships!"

We will be releasing the Second volume during Bullying Awareness Week 2009!

For more information and to order your copy of the first volume please visit: <http://www.authorhouse.com/BookStore/ItemDetail~bookid~51727.aspx>

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Fall is the Time for Bullying Prevention!

As the days begin to shorten and the leaves begin to change their colours, new groups of children and youth are formed. In classrooms, athletic teams, and community organizations children and youth are newly introduced or re-introduced after a summer of development and change. Social dynamics within these groups can range from healthy and inclusive, or destructive and fragmented. In the fall, the “socializing adults” responsible for these groups—teachers, coaches, and youth leaders—have a wide open window of opportunity to foster healthy dynamics right from the start.

PREVNet’s four pillars of social change provide an excellent framework to think about bullying prevention at this time of year. Here are some things to think about.

Education and Training

As an individual, are you comfortable in your level of knowledge about:

Bullying in its many forms: Why worry about it? What are the signs? How does bullying relate to human rights? Can you distinguish common myths from facts? The prevalence and nature of bullying among the age/gender groups you work with?

In the setting where you work with youth, are there activities designed to educate the adults, children and youth, and parents about expectations for respectful relationships right from the start?

Assessment and Evaluation

In your setting, is there objective information about:

Prevalence and frequency of bullying, children or youth’s perceptions of social climate, safety, etc.?

Is there evidence of effectiveness for the programs implemented in your setting, e.g., safe school, bullying prevention, violence prevention, conflict resolution, etc.?

Prevention and Intervention

In your setting, is there a person responsible for championing bullying prevention activities, and to support all adults to work as a team?

Are there prevention programs and activities planned and implemented, and are youth involved?

Do adults carefully monitor peer relationships and group dynamics, seeking to foster inclusion of vulnerable children?

Do adults provide additional support to children who are at risk for, or currently involved in a bullying problem, whether as a child who bullies, one who is victimized, or one who is dually involved?

Policy and Advocacy

In your setting, is there a policy that reflects the importance of respectful relationships and bullying prevention?

Is the policy a living document that reflects the input of adults and youth and is well known among all?

Our website, www.prevnet.ca can provide you with knowledge to help you create environments where children and youth are safe, respected and included. Basic information about bullying can be found under the “Bullying” tag. It is now easier than ever to download multiple resources. A wonderfully readable resource, particularly relevant at this time of year and available for downloading is: “Binoculars on Bullying: A New Solution to Protect and Connect Children.” To broaden and deepen your knowledge and skills, you can download a large variety of toolkits, including 26 new PREVNet/SAMSHA fact sheets summarizing the latest research on such issues as: electronic bullying, policy, bullying and vulnerable populations, and health outcomes associated with bullying. There are also resources written especially for children and youth.

Healthy development depends on healthy relationships. We hope all of you have had a restful summer and wish all of you a wonderful beginning as you embark upon your work with children and youth!