

Inside Education

December 2010

25th Annual Conference in Banff

We are happy to announce that planning is well underway for the upcoming annual ACEA conference. Once again, the conference will be held in Banff in early March at the Banff Park Lodge. This year's conference is especially exciting to us as it marks our 25th-year anniversary. As such, we have arranged an excellent line-up of speakers that are sure to engage all attendees.



This year, the conference's theme is Transitions. This is an important issue for nearly everyone we work with because most of the people we serve are in a constant state of transition. Whether it be from custody to the streets, group home to foster home, addiction to sobriety, or childhood to adulthood, they are always dealing with the challenges and issues that come along with constant change.

Conference registrations are now open, so get yourself signed up. Remember that we are offering a free seventh registration for every six guests. Banff Park Lodge is also offering a nightly conference rate of \$128.00 (+11% tax) until January 16th.

We hope to see you all there.

(Conference Speaker Information on Page 2)

Inside Education is the newsletter of the Alberta Correctional Education Association.

The newsletter is published two or three times a year, and submissions are always welcome.

The ACEA is a professional organization facilitating the educational needs of the incarcerated;

The ACEA strives to broaden professional horizons and interdisciplinary interaction of all personnel involved with correctional education;

Texts published in Inside Education express the views of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the ACEA, its executive, or the editor.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACEA Conference News	1
Speaker Information.....	2
A Teaching Experience.....	3
Editor's Message.....	4
Message From the President.....	5
Domestic Violence Court.....	6

Conference Speaker Information

Gordon Neufeld, Ph.D.

Dr. Neufeld is an internationally-recognized developmental psychologist and public speaker with over 30 years of experience working with children, parents and developmental theory/disorders. Over the years, Dr. Neufeld has served in both the private and public field as a teacher, forensic psychologist, private-practice psychologist and keynote speaker. Of particular interest to us is the fact the he also has experience working with violent young offenders.

Brett Cumberbatch

Brett Cumberbatch is an education consultant, motivational speaker and educator from Ontario who, at one time, was an at-risk youth himself. Now a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Toronto, Brett is an active advocate for male mentorship and providing youth with the tools needed to succeed. In 2008, Brett co-founded Smash the Glass Ceiling Consulting, and since, has worked with school boards, the government and various NGOs to assist them in overcoming social and demographic challenges in the education system.

Juanita Murphy

Juanita Murphy is a public educator and valued member of the Prostitution Awareness Foundation of Edmonton. Since leaving her past behind, Juanita has transitioned into sobriety and shares her story with others in hopes of helping youth understand their issues and build positive relationships

Native Counseling Services of Alberta

The NCSA provides counseling services aimed at improving the holistic development and wellness of the Aboriginal individual, family and community.

AADAC

The Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission is an agency of the the Alberta Government that provides alcohol and other drug addiction services to the people of Alberta

The John Howard Society

The John Howard Society delivers services and programs directed at socially integrating people at the end of thier sentences and preventing them from coming into conflict with the law in the first place

YOU CAN

Youcan is a youth-driven non-profit organization that specializes in youth-led methods for non-violent conflict resolution



Treaty Signing of 1877 Experience

Tahra Chaudhary
Westview School, CYOC

Students entered social studies class with a different purpose on Friday October 29. They were puzzled as they were greeted by their teacher, Tahra Chaudhary, who was dressed in period attire. They were asked to gather around the table as they had an important decision to make. The year was 1877 and each one of them were members of the Blackfoot Confederacy gathered here today to decide whether or not they would sign treaty 7. Their teacher would represent the interests of the government and missionaries of the time as her clothing accurately depicted what was actually worn by women at the time of the treaty signing. They were informed that the Canadian government was here to offer them a deal in exchange for their land and that missionaries would translate the information for them. This decision could not be made lightly. They had to deliberate to decide what was best for their people given their current situation. The buffalo, which is the mainstay of their people, are disappearing due to overhunting for the fur trade. As well First Nations neighbours to the south are experiencing cultural genocide as General Custer and his men were devastating First Nations groups in the US. Taking this into consideration, students had to look at the actual treaty and decide if they should sign it.

This is one statement taken from the actual treaty:

“And whereas the said Indians have been notified and informed by Her Majesty’s said Commissioners that it is the desire of Her Majesty to open up for settlement, immigration, trade and such other purposes as to Her Majesty may seem meet, a tract of country bounded and described as hereinafter mentioned, and to obtain the consent thereto of Her Indian subjects inhabiting the said tract, and to make a treaty and arrange with them, so that there may be peace and good will between them and Her Majesty and between them and Her Majesty’s other subjects, and that Her Indian people may know and be assured of what allowance they are to count upon and receive from Her Majesty’s bounty and benevolence.”

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As the teacher read the statement confused faces looked around at one another unsure of what to say. When asked whether or not they would sign the treaty one student said, "How can I sign something if I can't understand it?" Another said, "What choice do we have?" All three classes that took part in the experience in the end chose to sign the treaty despite not really knowing what they were getting in exchange for Southern Alberta. Next they were informed what they actually received.

What the treaty really says is:

- Reserves of 1 square mile per every 5 persons
- Annuities of \$25 for chief, plus coat and medal
- Headman \$15 annuity (per year)
- Each individual gets \$5 annuity
- Chief's suit of clothing every three years
- Blankets, calicoes, and British flag (once)
- Powder, shot, and twine annually (\$750)
- Per family: 2 shovels, spade, scythe, axe, seed
- Per ten families: 1 plough, 2 harrows
- For chief: oxen, bull, 4 cows, carpenter's tools, 5 hand saws, 5 augers, crosscut saw, pit saw, and grindstone
- School on reserve
- No liquor allowed
- Hunting, fishing, & trapping

When reflecting on this process, some students whose ancestors had actually signed the treaty realized for the first time the difficulty of the decisions that were made. These decisions that seemed like ancient history, still impact their lives today.

Message from the Editor

Wow! So here it finally is, the first edition of the Alberta Correctional Education Association's newsletter with its brand-new editor - me! First and foremost, I'd like to apologise for the delay in getting this out to all of you! It turns out that I didn't have a clue how to edit PDF's, and once I'd figured that out, I realized that I didn't really know how to use Adobe Illustrator either! Then, there was the little issue of my having to put an enormous amount of time and effort into growing a Movember mustache. Anyway, with all that behind me, I can (almost) safely predict that the next edition will be out, for your reading pleasure, in six months time.

Hopefully this time of year finds you safe, well and able and ready to take a few days off to relax with family, friends and whoever else you can cram into your busy schedule. Make the most of these precious days because 2011 is just around the corner and there are a few things I'll be needing you to do for me.

Firstly, I'd like to encourage all of you to look into attending the upcoming conference in Banff. There's enough on that topic already in this newsletter, so I'm not going to go into a lot of detail on the subject, but it is our 25th anniversary, and it is shaping up to be a good one!

Secondly, I am already looking for submissions for the newsletter's next edition. I'd love to be able to showcase some of the work being done by students, teachers and others throughout the entire province. All I need from you is a simple write-up and a signed permission to publish from. Please contact me at cwhitehead@bowvalleycollege.ca if you have anything to contribute or need a permission to publish from, so you can contribute the work of one of your students.

Thirdly, I would like to spotlight the educational programs that exist across the province in upcoming editions of this newsletter. This means I will be needing a little help from you! I'll be contacting your departments over the next few months to see if who wants to participate!

Until then, take care and enjoy the holidays.

Cobern Whitehead

Message from the ACEA President

As we close another calendar year, it is my pleasure to update and highlight the recent and continued work of the ACEA. If you feel the need to skim this message, do yourself a favour, and be certain to hit the fourth paragraph- if nothing else.

This year's election resulted in several new board members joining us. We have representation from across this beautiful province. Our board members come from correctional institutions, non-profit agencies, public schools and post-secondary institutions. Don Winchester graciously stepped into an interim VP role, and will be leaving us in 2011. The VP role needs to be filled and I would ask you to consider whether you could be the person to take the role on. If not, perhaps you could surreptitiously nominate a colleague?

Our March 2010 conference was, by all accounts, a success. Anecdotally, the feedback was positive. The member surveys provided us with a measurable sense of how our members perceive the conference. Those survey results were generally encouraging and generous. Where suggestions were offered, we gave careful consideration.

This year's theme is "Transitions". The Transitions conference will be our 25th annual conference. In keeping with that theme, we have invited speakers from across Canada who offer their professional and personal perspective on the work around transitioning. As we are aware, transitioning can refer to many circumstances; incarceration to community, youth to adulthood for instance. Learn more about the 2011 conference at: <http://www.nald.ca/acea/conference.htm> and join us on FACEBOOK and TWITTER.

As we gear up for our 25th conference, let me sum up by saying this conference marks the continued effort of professionals who believed that there was a need for a meaningful professional development opportunity for those who work along the fringe. It is a testament to your support that this conference still stands solidly as a well-attended and utilized event.

See you in March my friends. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions, ideas or questions, send them along to coreymacpherson@yahoo.com If you have any complaints, send them to Cobern .

Regards,
Corey Macpherson
ACEA President



I have six locks on my door all in a row.
When I go out,
I lock every other one.
I figure no matter how long someone
stands there picking the locks,
they are always locking three

-Elayne Boosler

Random Interesting Facts:

Pigs are the only animals, other than humans
that can get sunburned.

One-third of all potatoes sold are in the form of
french-fries.

Armadillos can be housebroken.

Your nose and ears never stop growing.

Calgary's Domestic Violence Court

Sherri Lockwood
Bow Valley College, CRC

He sat down laughing, leaning up against his girlfriend, resting his arm across the back of the bench; his legs stretched out in front of him and crossed at the knee. A large, shiny, square ring extended to a knuckle on his left hand.

With this couple's ease and confident manner, they could have been students relaxing on a break in any program at the college. Perhaps they are students, but they weren't at the college. Instead, they were sitting in front of me in the gallery of courtroom 508, the Domestic Violence Court at the Calgary Court House. As an instructor at the Calgary Remand Center, some of my students have been charged with domestic violence offenses. I was there to observe this specialized court that is Calgary's process of dealing with charges of domestic violence. There are not many such courts in Canada and Calgary's court was one of the early ones, coming into existence about 10 years ago.

We, in Calgary, are fortunate to have this specialized domestic violence court and the affiliated organization, HomeFront. HomeFront is a collaborative, coordinated approach to domestic violence with the intention of reducing domestic violence. The court is for those who acknowledge responsibility for their actions. Responses are coordinated and cases are dealt with more quickly than the regular court system. It is an all day court with trials taking place in the afternoon. A first time appearance may result in a 1 year peace bond with conditions attached. If the conditions are met, there is no criminal record. This court works well for all parties. The court wants to see people get help, accept responsibility and get treatment. With the court-ordered treatment, people are often able to get treatment that they could not afford. In the sentencing that I heard, the conditions included anger management courses, domestic violence counselling, assessments, refraining from alcohol and drugs, and addiction counselling. If the orders were not followed, the offender could face jail time for the offences.

As I sat in the courtroom that morning, for one quick second, I wondered if this man had ever punched his girlfriend with this large ring. I remember how my breath had caught the first time I realized that men punched women, both in the face and in the body.

You may have seen the DVD, *Once Were Warriors*, which tells the haunting story of a New Zealand family living with domestic violence and the complex family problems that often accompany it. Although it was filmed half a world away, this film replicates the details of stories I have heard here. These stories cut across culture, geography, and income levels.

As I sat waiting for the court to begin, a kaleidoscope of faces twirled in front me; victims, offenders, witnesses, and supports, all of whom had been involved in domestic violence situations. I have found that, when one knows the people involved, the clean, sharp distinctions, that often make it easy to judge and stereotype, can begin to blur. One can see the complexity and tragedy in the patterning as well as the need for safety, support and healing.

In two cases I observed, the couples were reconciling. Given the details of the beating in one case, I shouted in my head, "Why would you go back?" As I left the courtroom, I again thought of this case, trying to understand it. About a block from the courthouse, I remembered the cycle of violence and how people go back to each other again and again and again, until something happens or there is healing. With my training, I should not have been surprised, yet, I was initially. I was reminded how confusing it can be for people who want to help.

We, in Calgary, are fortunate to have supports and resources. The YWCA's Sheriff King Home has a long history of providing shelter for women and children and counselling for the whole family. Calgary Counselling also provides support through individual counselling with offenders. We live in a time when people are more aware of signs of violence and notice these signs. People are also willing to take the risk to ask about what they observe. And it is a risk for they do not know what they will discover, how they might deal with it, or what impact simply asking the question might have on their relationship. There is support available for anyone whose life is touched by domestic violence.

Resources

www.homefrontcalgary.com

www.community.ywcaofcalgary.com/Page.aspx?pid=231

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/EB/eb-Mar-2009-eng.php>

<http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/828.cfm>