



**ALERT**  
ALBERTA LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TEAMS



# I-TRAC Newsletter

April 2011

## *A Little Refresher!*

### *About: Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) & the Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (I-TRAC)*

Members of I-TRAC are asked a variety of questions about what they do, what kind of cases get referred to them, and even inquiries into how their unit came about. Such questions are understandable as I-TRAC is a fairly new initiative and ALERT, which I-TRAC is part of, is the first model of its kind in Canada.

Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) was established by the Alberta Government in 2006. The organization, which operates at arms-length from the province, brings together Alberta's most sophisticated law enforcement resources to combat serious and organized crime. Close to 400 municipal police, RCMP members, and sheriffs work together in an integrated environment in regions throughout the province. Highly skilled police teams investigate things like drug trafficking, child exploitation, gang violence and organized crime to create safer communities for all Albertans. Among these specialized units are the Integrated Child Exploitation units (ICE), Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN), Fugitive Apprehension Sheriffs Support Team (FASST), Sheriffs Investigative Support Unit and of course, Integrated Threat and Risk Assessment Centre (I-TRAC).

I-TRAC was specifically created in response to the high rates of domestic violence fatalities recorded in Alberta. I-TRAC is a joint forces multi-disciplined unit that prepares risk assessment reports and case management plans for intimate partner violence and stalking cases in Alberta. Members of I-TRAC include law enforcement officers from the RCMP, Calgary Police Service, Edmonton Police Service, Medicine Hat Police Service and Lethbridge Regional Police Service (trained threat assessors) teamed with a Child Protection Expert from Alberta Children and Youth Services, a Crown prosecutor as well as a consulting psychologist and psychiatrist.

I-TRAC receives referrals from police services, Crown prosecutors, Corrections and Children and Youth Services. I-TRAC services include formal threat assessments and case management plans; recommendations regarding investigative strategies, charges, court orders, and; expert court testimony for purposes of bail and sentencing hearings, child custody and access hearings, and guardianship applications. I-TRAC will also coordinate and participate with all primary front line agencies in case conferencing.

For more information, please visit the ALERT website at: <http://www.alert-ab.ca/>

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## *What's New at I-TRAC?*

### 2010 Stats

In the 2010 fiscal year (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011), I-TRAC received one hundred and nine new case referrals. 9 of those files were referred to I-TRAC from Edmonton Police Service, 8 from Calgary Police Service, sixty-eight from the RCMP, 1 from Lethbridge Regional Police Service, 4 from Medicine Hat Police Service and twelve from Alberta Children and Youth Services. 7 case referrals came from other outside agencies.

I-TRAC Threat Assessors worked very hard in 2010 concluding eighty six files.

### Expert Witness Testimony

Two I-TRAC Threat Assessors have recently provided expert witness testimony in court on two separate cases.

On June 14 & 15, 2010, Sergeant Dellrae Sharpe, a Medicine Hat Police Service Threat Assessor assigned to I-TRAC gave expert witness testimony regarding domestic violence and risk for future violence during an Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada hearing. The subject in this case was originally ordered removed from Canada on March 3, 2009. A removal order was issued on the basis that "he (the subject) is a person described in paragraph 36 (1)(a) of the *Act* as inadmissible on grounds of serious criminality for having been convicted in Canada for an offence under an Act of Parliament punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of at least ten years." The subject appealed this decision to the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada but the appeal was dismissed. In the panel's reasons for decision, they make reference to Sergeant Sharpe's testimony regarding domestic violence as it relates to the case and also her assessment that the subject is at high risk for future domestic violence.

On August 27, 2010, Detective Amat, a Calgary Police Service Threat Assessor assigned to I-TRAC gave expert witness testimony regarding risk for future violence and flight risk during a Court of Queen's Bench Bail Review Hearing in Calgary, Alberta. Detective Amat provided her threat assessment regarding the subject to the court as well as her testimony during the hearing. The subject was denied bail on both the primary and secondary grounds. In her reasons for decision, the Court of Queen's Bench Madame Justice Hughes stated that she "considered the evidence of Detective Amat with respect to her threat assessment. I do place some weight on her evidence. And when I consider that as well as these other factors under the secondary ground I find that the subject's detention is required on the secondary ground as well as the primary ground."

### Recent Publications

In 2010, the United Nations published a handbook called "Handbook on Effective Police Responses to Violence Against Women." This handbook is designed for first responders such as the police. It explains the issue, provides an overview of relevant norms and standards, and gives guidance on how to intervene. In particular, it focuses on how to investigate acts of violence against women, a process that requires considerable sensitivity. On page 78 of the handbook, I-TRAC is mentioned as a good practice example, "**In Alberta (Canada), the provincial government has established a domestic violence threat assessment unit that involves academic specialists, family law experts, child intervention case workers, police and prosecutors. The Alberta Relationship Threat Assessment and Management Initiative (I-TRAC's former name) coordinates the efforts of justice officials, along with community organizations, to more effectively address threats posed in violent, high-risk relationships and stalking situations. The initiative further serves as a resource to police across the province, as well as to women's shelters, corrections officials, mental health workers and communities.**"

For more information, go to

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/hb\\_eff\\_police\\_responses.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/hb_eff_police_responses.pdf)

## *Domestic Violence and the Workplace...*

Domestic Violence is quickly becoming one of the fastest growing types of workplace violence in Canada. It is considered workplace violence because its consequences can extend from the home into the workplace in the form of harassing phone calls, stalking and even homicide. Statistics Canada (2006) estimates the annual national cost of domestic violence, including lost productivity, to be billions of dollars. More serious though, is the danger domestic violence can pose to the victim, co-workers of the victim and the organization.

In the past, domestic violence was commonly seen as a personal matter. Companies and employers rarely intervened in such instances. However, employers are now beginning to address family violence as a workplace priority in order to ensure the well-being of its members. Domestic violence prevention workshops, toolkits and training opportunities are now offered for managers and supervisors across Canada. Provincial governments have also started to recognize the importance of such initiatives. Two provinces, Ontario and Manitoba, have recently changed their legislation to recognize Domestic Violence as a type of workplace violence.

In December 2009, the province of Ontario introduced Bill 168, the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act (Violence and Harassment in the Workplace) 2009 which amends the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) to impose new obligations on employers with respect to workplace violence and harassment. Some of the changes include new definitions of and policies for workplace violence and harassment which require employers to develop and maintain a program to implement such policies. Bill 168 also addresses the issue of domestic violence in the workplace by requiring “employers who are aware, or ought reasonably to be aware; that domestic violence may occur in the workplace must take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances to protect a worker at risk of physical injury.” (Ontario Ministry of Labour).

More recently, in 2010 the Manitoba Government passed Bill 219, the Workplace Safety and Health Amendment Act (Harassment and Violence in the Workplace). This Act includes a number of changes regarding violence and harassment in the workplace, one to note is that in respect to domestic violence. Bill 219 states, “If an employer becomes aware, or ought reasonable to be aware, of domestic violence that would likely expose a worker to physical injury or harassment in the workplace, the employer must take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of the worker,” this portion of the bill goes on to list a number of examples of ways employers can take precautions against domestic violence in the workplace (The Workplace Safety and Health Amendment Act).

### *What can you do as an employer/manager/supervisor to combat family violence in your organization?*

Many organizations throughout Canada are touched by family violence. Even small efforts made by employers can have positive results. Something as simple as distributing information about services offered within the community could be helpful to an employee. Below are some examples of what employers can do about family violence in the workplace:

- Establish and demonstrate your company’s position on family violence.
- Train all staff on measures and procedures for the prevention of workplace violence including domestic violence.
- Develop supportive workplace policies.
- Create health and safety and employee assistance programs.
- Develop a security plan for the workplace.
- Establish a company hotline for employees to report threatening situations they have experienced or witnessed.
- Establish specific actions that the employer, supervisor or others can take in domestic violence situations in the workplace.

For more information on domestic violence toolkits visit The Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters at <http://www.acws.ca/>

## *Why Do Victims Stay?*

*Written by: Cpl. Deanna Fontaine, I-TRAC Threat Assessor*

For someone who has never experienced domestic violence, the question of why a victim stays with an abusive partner can be very difficult to understand. There are many reasons why it might be hard to leave an abusive relationship. The following list provides some (**not all**) of the reasons why victims stay:

- **Fear:** Abusers often threaten over and over that they will hurt the victim, their children, a pet, a family member/friend or themselves. Abusers may even threaten to kill the victim or themselves if his/her partner leaves. A victim may stay in the relationship because they are scared of what the abuser will do if they leave.
- **Low self-esteem:** When an abuser calls their partner names, puts them down and plays mind games it can make the victim feel bad about themselves. Many times victims believe that the abuse is their fault or that they deserve the abuse.
- **Money:** Victims may depend on their abuser for financial support. Victims may not leave because they are scared that they will not have enough money to support themselves- a fear that often gets worse if they have children.
- **Children:** It is very common for a victim to stay with an abusive partner because they do not want to "break up" their family and are afraid that it might be hard on their children if they leave. Victims may be afraid that the abuser will take the children away or that they might hurt the children if s/he is not there to protect them.
- **Control:** Victims often think that they can control their partner's abusive behavior by doing exactly what s/he wants and by doing everything perfectly. But, victims have NO control over their partner's actions. The only people who can control the violence and the abuse are the abusers themselves.
- **Hope for change:** Abusers often promise that they will change and that the abuse will not happen again. Many victims want to believe this is true, and they hope that the abuse will end and things will get better.
- **Pressure from friends and family:** Friends and family of a victim may not be supportive. Victims may not be believed, told that the abuse is their fault or that all relationships have bad times and that s/he should try harder. Friends and family may also get angry because the victim stays with the abuser or has left and gone back to the abuser so many times. Plus, friends and family may be scared about their own safety-what will happen if the victim stays at my home, etc.
- **Doesn't know that help is out there:** Many abusers isolate their victim from her/his friends and family in order to gain more control. By the time the victim decides they want to leave, s/he may feel like they have no one to turn to and nowhere to go. Victims might not know what help is available to them in their community.

It is not easy to end an abusive relationship. It can be hard to let go of a person you love, memories and family. Deciding to end an abusive relationship has risks. When a victim leaves the abusers loses his/her power and control-often increasing the danger for the victim. When a victim decides to leave, it can be safer if they get support. Victims can contact the Alberta Family Violence Helpline at **310-1818** (24 HRS) to help victims learn about their options and plan for safety.

## *Domestic Violence in the News*

### **Abused Wife's Payout Cut Because She Was Used To Violence**

<http://www.news.com.au/national/shock-as-battered-wives-compensation-cut/story-e6frfkvr-1225995158533>

January 27, 2011— Australia  
Domestic violence experts fear a court ruling that slashed a battered woman's compensation payment because she was "conditioned" to domestic violence by her husband will deter other victims from taking legal action. Diane Mangan, chief executive of the 24-hour helpline DV connect, said the decision to reduce the payout because of the woman's predisposition to mental stress from previous domestic violence only served to "diminish" her traumatic experience. "It's almost like saying the years that you have suffered at the hands of your

husband don't count," she said. The District Court in Brisbane was told that in 2006, the woman, 30, and her children were confronted by her husband, 36, who was wielding a knife. A hostage situation developed and when police arrived, the couple's children were handed out of a window. The husband then pushed his wife into a bedroom door, injuring her shoulder. After pleading guilty to deprivation of liberty and common assault charges, he was jailed for two years to be suspended after eight months. His wife applied for criminal compensation and in a recent judgment was

awarded \$20,250. Judge Richard Jones said unfortunately for the woman, the incident was one of a long history of domestic violence and that she had been "conditioned" to the violence by her husband. He noted that the offences before him had pushed the woman over the edge. Judge Jones said that because of the woman's predispositions to post traumatic stress disorder, it was contended by lawyers that the percentage of the maximum compensation for mental anguish should be reduced from 34 to 20 per cent. He said 20 per cent was justified.

### **West Should Lead In Fight to Curtail Domestic Violence**

[http://www.thestarphoenix.com/opinion/West+should+lead+fight+curtail+domestic+violence/4183340/story.html?cid=megadrop\\_story](http://www.thestarphoenix.com/opinion/West+should+lead+fight+curtail+domestic+violence/4183340/story.html?cid=megadrop_story)

January 28, 2011—Saskatchewan  
From economic and population growth to quality of life and innovation studies, Saskatchewan and its Prairie Neighbours have become accustomed to taking a leadership role. According to a report released Thursday by Statistics Canada, however, the prairie provinces also lead the nation in a much more discreditable category. In spite of the being in the heart of the "get-tough-on-crime" crowd, Western Canada con-

tinues to have among the highest rates of domestic violence in the country. And Saskatchewan sits atop that list. According to the study, Canada was for years making progress on reducing domestic violence. But those efforts seemed to have stalled over the second half of the past decade. Of even greater concern is the apparently growing reluctance of victims of domestic violence to report it. When asked why they didn't bring the attacks to the attention of the po-

lice, victims responded that they didn't think it was such a big deal to be beaten, berated and impoverished by their partners. It is perhaps the spread of this tendency that will make it such a daunting task to deal with domestic violence. But it is clear from numbers recorded in the rest of the country that there is no need for Prairie folk to accept this violence as a personal matter between the victim and the abuser.

### **Banishment Overturned: Man Was Banned From Medicine Hat**

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Banishment+overturned/4222604/story.html>

February 4, 2011—Medicine Hat  
The province's highest court has overturned a judge's order against a man who was banished from Medicine Hat for the duration of an 18-month probation order for assaulting and harassing his former spouse. The Alberta Court of Appeal did not tamper with the nine-month jail sentence that provincial court Judge Darwin Graves had imposed on Walter Beal, last May, part of a joint submission by Crown and defence, but said the proba-

tion with banishment had never been discussed. "The record discloses that the sentencing judge advised counsel of his concern that there be some "long term restrain and probation" and he offered to hear submissions," the appellate court wrote in its decision released on Thursday. "First, it appears from (the) transcript of proceedings that the sentencing judge had already made up his mind to add a probationary term no matter the submissions of counsel."

The court then said the lawyers were not told that the sentencing judge was considering a banishment order. "Such orders are so rarely imposed that counsel would have no reason to suspect the sentencing judge was thinking of resorting to one, and therefore had no cause to address this particular form of restraint." The appellate court also said it was not clear that a banishment order would have achieved its intended effect, as on both occasions that the appellant assaulted (the victim), she had gone to him, not he to her.

## Cops Applaud Term: Man Sentenced to Eight Years for Brutal Sex Attack

<http://www.calgarysun.com/news/alberta/2011/02/04/17149506.html>

February 4, 2011—Calgary  
Convicted of a sex attack on a woman he threatened to kill if she dared go to police, a repeat violent offender was handed a hefty jail sentence. And the eight-year prison term given to David Larry Ramsay last week is being applauded by cops who hope other victims will come forward. “This was a significant sentence,” domestic violence unit Staff Sgt. John Guigon said. “This was a particularly heinous offence and we feel the punishment fits the crime.”  
The fact Ramsay who has two prior

domestic convictions, including one in 1997 for a near-fatal throat-slashing of another woman, found another victim is disturbing but knowing he is behind bars for some time is a relief, he said. “This guys hasn’t learned anything from his prior convictions,” he said. “The courts are saying society is not going to accept this.”  
The woman was attacked at the man’s home early one morning shortly before Christmas 2008. Using a construction strap with a metal clasp, Ramsay struck her on the head.

Semi-conscious and choking on her own blood, he thwarted her efforts to call 911 and pushed her face-down onto a bed before trying to choke her. As he raped her, he threatened the woman who he called “a f— bitch,” should she go to authorities. At the time, he was on court-ordered conditions to have no contact with the woman given a prior assault still before the courts. After several hours, the woman fled but she didn’t go to police. Several weeks later, in court regarding the earlier assault, a Crown attorney noticed she was wearing sunglasses.

## Clairmont: Insurance Rule Stings Victims of Domestic Violence

<http://www.thespec.com/news/local/article/483501--clairmont-insurance-rule-stings-victims-of-domestic-violence>

February 10, 2011—Hamilton, ON  
In industry lingo, they’re called “innocent co-insureds.”  
In reality, they are often victims of domestic violence, revictimized by insurance companies. Canadian women are being told their insurance will not cover the criminal and intentional fires set by abusive partners because both their names appear on the policies. Though legal and domestic violence experts call for changes to the insurance industry that will give abuse victims a change to rebuild their lives, the few attempts made to address the issue

are mired in politics and paperwork. “It’s unconscionable for an insurance company not to recognize the plight of a woman in those circumstances,” says psychologist Dr. Peter Jaffe, director of the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women. These women did nothing wrong. They did not start the fires or conspire with fire starters. In some cases the women had already gone to police and the courts to try and protect themselves. And in some cases the women—and their children—narrowly escaped grave injuries by

fleeing the home. Women, like Jennifer Robinson. The mom from Lowbanks, near Dunnville, grabbed her three children and fled her home to safety, only to have her home set on fire moments later. Her estranged husband faces charges of arson, assault causing bodily harm, threatening death and firearms offences. The house is gutted. Jennifer and the children, aged 8, 7 and 2, lost all of their belongings. Yet RSA Canada says it likely won’t pay her claim because her husband’s name appears on the insurance alongside her own.

## Paid Leave For Public Servants

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/paid-leave-for-public-servants-20110211-1aqjv.html>

February 12, 2011—South Wales  
The State government is to announce today that public servants will be given extra paid leave if they are victims of domestic violence. The move implicitly concedes the importance of public sector unions in shoring up political support in next month’s election. Last month the Herald reported that the government had delayed in responding to a demand first made by the Public Service Association in May that public

servants who are victims of domestic violence be given an extra days paid leave a year. Additionally, the association wanted protection preventing bosses from sacking or suspending an employee if their attendance or work suffered because of domestic violence, with human resources staff to be trained in domestic violence issues. In today’s announcement the state government will say it has agreed to give public servants an additional five days annual leave related specifically

to domestic violence, while agreeing that other leave such as sick leave, carers leave and family and community services leave can be accessed when responding to domestic violence. Victims might also be able to have access to flexible working arrangements during this period, the government said. “The Premier has recognized the need to assist those suffering domestic violence,” Steve Turner, assistant secretary of the Public Service Association said.

## Tories Talk Tough On Domestic Violence In Alberta Throne Speech: Speech Outlines New Measure to Protect Victims, Strengthen Penalties

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/opinion/reader-comments/City+eyes+underground+economy/2644706/>

February 23, 2011—Edmonton

The Alberta Government will introduce new measures to protect victims of domestic violence, Lt.-Gov. Donald Ethell said Tuesday in throne speech.

“This session, legislation will be introduced to strengthen protection for victims of family violence, and to hold accountable those who violate protection orders,” Ethell said, outlining the Conservative government’s agenda for the spring sitting of the legislature.

“These amendments will make Alberta’s penalties for such violation among the strongest in Canada.”

Statistics Canada says women in Alberta experience the highest rate of domestic violence in the country. In 2005, the most recent year for which statistics were available, police in Alberta responded to more than 6,600 spousal abuse incidents and laid 4,187 charges. Edmonton police last week said they investigated 6,700 cases of spousal abuse in 2010 compared with 4,000 cases in 2008.

Jan Reimer of the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters said people who aid victims of domestic violence have long been unhappy about the lack of consequences for abusers who breach emergency protection orders.

“It has been hard to see any consequences for abusers that breach,” she said.

Some men subject to emergency protection orders have shown up at homes of victims, followed them, and even attend children’s hockey games.

“It can be very dangerous for the woman, and also very frightening for the woman and for children who are involved,” she said.

She hopes the promised legislation, which had not yet been made public, will encourage police to lay criminal charges when people breach protection orders.

## Stalker’s Banishment from Regina Overturned, Except for Small Area

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/breakingnews/stalkers-banishment-from-regina-overturned-except-for-small-area-117186173.html>

March 1, 2011—Regina

A man who has stalked a Regina woman for more than 30 years is no longer banished from the city.

Justice Frank Gerein of Court of Queen’s Bench overturned a lower court ruling last summer that banned Gerald Klein from Regina for one

Year.

Gerein said the ban was “excessive and unduly harsh.”

The justice did, however, uphold the one-year peace bond and ordered Klein to stay out of a small area of Regina except for medical emergencies.

Klein was jailed for three years in 2003 for stalking Cathy Kaip since they met in 1974 at a wedding.

Jim Kaip says his sister is too distraught about the ruling and she feels betrayed by the legal system.

## Pet Refuge Service Helps Domestic Abuse Victims Flee

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/atlantic/pet-refuge-service-helps-domestic-abuse-victims-to-flee/article1930973/>

March 4, 2011—Atlantic Canada

Marion stayed with a violent husband because she couldn’t bear to leave her animals.

The abuse worsened, and the New Brunswick woman, who did not want her full name published, was finally forced to abandon them as she fled the family farm with her children.

“I had to leave my dogs and cats, I had to leave my cows and pigs,” she said, her voice shaking even years later. “And I was the one that looked after them. They were like my babies.”

Studies have shown repeatedly that many victims of abuse delay leaving because they don’t want to abandon their

animals. But New Brunswick women in that situation can now seek help from Safe For Pets Too, a program providing refuge for animals of people escaping abuse.

The multi-agency program headed by the province’s SPCA launched last month. It is building a network of foster homes and looking for corporate support. And in recognition of the barriers facing the province’s rural women, it is ready to care for farm animals as well, a first in the country.

What to do with treasured animals has long been a problem for women seeking to quit abusive relationships. Pets tend not

to be welcome at shelters or transitional housing, and livestock raise much more serious logistical issues. But leaving them behind can be emotionally shattering, and raises the possibility of abusers taking revenge on the animals. Emergency sheltering of animals in such situation has been done across the country on an ad hoc basis, depending on need and availability of space. But the new service in New Brunswick appears to be part of a trend toward formal programs.



## ***Book Summary:***

# **A Typology of Domestic Violence: Intimate Terrorism, Violent Resistance, and Situational Couple Violence**

By: Michael P. Johnson

In this book, Michael Johnson, a retired professor of sociology, women's studies and African American studies, brings forth the idea that there is more than one type of intimate partner violence. He tries to dispel the myth that domestic violence is a unitary phenomenon by showing his readers that there are different types of intimate partner violence, that violence in relationships develop in different ways and they have very different consequences. He shows how these different types of violence account for the varying results in research (ie. research studies that argue women are just as likely as men to be perpetrators of domestic violence). The three types of intimate partner violence discussed throughout this book are; intimate terrorism, violent resistance, and situational couple violence.

### **Intimate Terrorism**

Intimate terrorism is about violent, coercive control. The intimate terrorist uses physical violence in combination with a variety of other control tactics to exercise general, coercive control over his/her partner. Such tactics may include threats and intimidation, monitoring, isolation, blaming the victim for the violence, controlling economic resources etc. Intimate terrorism is perpetrated in large part by men against their woman partners. This type of violence is most often found in research whose sample groups are taken from shelters, the courts and hospitals as women who come into contact with these agencies are most likely experiencing intimate terrorism.

### **Violent Resistance**

In response to intimate terrorism, many victims try to control the violence with their own behavior. For example, they may stop talking to certain people, make sure to have dinner on the table every night or stop speaking their mind in order to avoid "upsetting" their partner. In effect, victims resist intimate terrorism through whatever means necessary, including using violence. Violent resistance, according to Mr. Johnson, is similar to self defense in that it is violence that takes place as an immediate reaction to an assault, and that it is intended primarily to protect oneself from injury. Most, however not all, of these desperate acts of violence, including homicide, take place while a violent or threatening incident is occurring. Perpetrators of violent resistance are typically women as they are, more often than not, the victims of intimate terrorism.

### **Situational Couple Violence**

The third type of intimate partner violence is situational couple violence. Unlike intimate terrorism, situational couple violence is not driven by a general motive of control from either side but rather arises out of the dynamics of a particular situation. For example, a conflict between the partners leads to an argument, the argument escalates and becomes verbally aggressive, and the verbal abuse leads to violence. This type of violence may be harmless and happen only once in a couple's relationship or it could be chronic and escalating. Situational couple violence is the most common type of intimate partner violence and is almost as likely to be initiated by women as their partners. However, one cannot misconstrue this fact with the idea that women are as violent as men in relationships since the data has always shown men have engaged in more frequent violence and their female partners are far more likely to be physically injured, to fear for their safety, and to experience negative psychological consequences of the violence.

### **Summary**

In this book, Johnson takes the position that not all intimate partner violence is the same. Partner violence can have very different causes, developmental trajectories and effects. We start to make big mistakes if we don't make big distinctions says Johnson, especially when it comes to successful intervention strategies. According to Johnson more research needs to be done on these distinctions so that we can respond more effectively to the violence that continues to be a factor in so many relationships around the world.

## *Upcoming Events*

### *Violence Risk Assessment and Management Workshop for Post-Secondary Institutions*

**Date:** May 30 – June 3, 2011

**Location:** (To be determined) Lower Mainland, BC

ProActive ReSolutions Inc. is pleased to present a 5-day Violence Risk Assessment and Management workshop to provide professionals from post-secondary institutions with essential knowledge and skills related to the assessment and management of violence risk. The workshop will be facilitated by internationally recognized Threat Assessment experts, Dr. Stephen D. Hart and Dr. Kelly A. Watt, who will discuss issues related to violence risk assessment and management and case studies relevant to post-secondary institutions.

For more information, go to <http://www.proactive-resolutions.com/events/>

### *Alberta Elder Abuse Conference 2011*

**Date:** October 2 – 4, 2011

**Location:** Radisson Hotel South, Edmonton, Alberta

The Alberta Elder Abuse Conference 2011 is presented by the Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network. Established in 2002, this province-wide group of representatives from government, community agencies and stakeholder organizations works to increase community awareness and develop resources to address elder abuse.

For more information, go to <http://www.albertaelderabuse.ca/blogDetails.cfm?bID=222>

### *Taking Action Against Child Abuse*

**Date:** May 6 – 9, 2012

**Location:** Carriage House Inn, Calgary, AB

The 2012 Joining Together Conference will once again bring child abuse professionals together to identify and discuss issues and initiatives related to child abuse forensic investigation and clinical practice. The conference is pleased to feature sessions related to the latest research and best practices in forensic child abuse investigation and clinical practice. The conference is based on a model of multidisciplinary collaboration.

For more information, go to [http://www.csicainfo.com/resource/file/Save%20the%20Date%20\(2012\)\(1\).pdf](http://www.csicainfo.com/resource/file/Save%20the%20Date%20(2012)(1).pdf)