



ALERT
ALBERTA LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TEAMS

I-TRAC Newsletter

November 2011

I-TRAC News

New Additions



Tom Gross

I-TRAC is proud to welcome Tom Gross, Detective Trudy Triplett and John Fiorilli to the team.

Tom Gross is the newest Civilian Threat Assessor at I-TRAC. Tom recently retired from the Lethbridge Regional Police Service where he served over 25 years. Before his retirement, Tom worked as a Community Resource Officer and has a vast amount of experience in conducting multidisciplinary threat assessments in school and workplace settings. During his policing career, Tom also worked in such areas as Technical Surveillance Support, Patrol Operations, Forensic Identification Unit and Traffic Division. Welcome Tom!

Detective Trudy Triplett comes to us from the Edmonton Police Service with almost 20 year's experience. Trudy has worked in various areas including Child Protection, Elder Abuse and Officer Safety. Welcome Trudy!

Both Trudy and Tom are participating in the 2-year I-TRAC Threat Assessment Understudy Training Program.



Det. Trudy Triplett

John Fiorilli is I-TRAC's newest Civilian Intake and Assessment Coordinator. John brings 33 years of policing experience to I-TRAC. John recently retired from the Edmonton Police

Service where he was in charge of the EPS VICE – Missing Persons Section. John, who has been a Team Commander on a number of high profile cases, is known nationally for his work in Human Trafficking. He has also made many contributions over the years and has been involved with a number of agencies responsible for assisting victims of human trafficking and prostitution/vulnerable persons. We are looking forward to having John with us at I-TRAC. Welcome!



John Fiorilli

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Liam Ennis

We are also happy to announce that Dr. Liam Ennis, Ph.D., R has accepted a full time position with I-TRAC commencing January 1, 2012. Dr. Ennis' professional expertise includes risk for violent or sexual re-offending, violence risk/assessment management, assessment/management of internal threats for workplace/domestic violence, management of high risk offenders in the community, education and training, consultation regarding policy development and much more. Dr. Ennis has given exceptional input on a number of I-TRAC files since he accepted a part-time position in September 2011. We look forward to having him full time!

Conferences

In September, I-TRAC members attended the CATAP (Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals) conference in Banff. CATAP is an internationally recognized conference for those involved in the threat assessment field from the legal, medical, private and law enforcement professions. This year Detective AMAT, Assistant Director BARTKUS, Dr. Liam ENNIS & Director Val CAMPBELL – provided separate presentations/information sessions on the following topics of interest:

- Anatomy of a Canadian Stalking case
- Extreme Stalking – An Alberta Case Study
- Expert Evidence Testimony and Threat Assessment (Panel Discussion)

November is Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta



Family Violence Prevention Month started in 1986 as a local initiative in the town of Hinton, Alberta where concerned residents launched a family violence education and prevention campaign.

This grassroots effort inspired the Alberta Legislature to support family violence prevention as an ongoing provincial initiative, resulting in the inception of Family Violence Prevention Month. Today, hundreds of Alberta communities and thousands of individuals are actively involved in preventing family violence through education and service provision.

The Government of Alberta is encouraging Albertans to reach out to victims of family violence and to speak up for those who are silenced. There are many events going on across Alberta to support to this initiative. To find events in your area visit: <http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/834.cfm>

In keeping with Family Violence Prevention Month, new amendments regarding *Alberta's Protection Against Family Violence Act* (PAFVA) came into effect on November 1, 2011. These amendments penalize a person if they do not follow the conditions of a protection order (either an EPO or a Queen's Bench Protection Order). Penalties for not following a protection order include a fine of up to \$5,000 and possible jail time up to 90 days for a first offence, mandatory jail time of 14 days to 18 months for a second offence and 30 days to 24 months for third and subsequent offences.

Information provided by the Government of Alberta: <http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/834.cfm>

Domestic Violence in the News

Murders Spark Fears of Honour Killings

<http://www.nationalpost.com/Murders+spark+fears+honour+killings/5190422/story.html>

August 2, 2011 - Abdul Malik Rustam had been in Canada for only two months before his wife, Shaher Bano Shahdady, rented a Toronto apartment of her own. Around midnight on July 22, police say Mr. Rustam found his way in and strangled her. Neighbors reported hearing a child's screams for 15 minutes, and then silence. Ms. Shahdady's father discovered her body the next day. According to Toronto police, the couple's two-year old son had been left with Ms. Shahdady's body for more than 12 hours.

Six days later, in the Vancouver suburb of Surrey, 24 year-old Ravinder Bhangu was seated at her desk at Sach Di Awaaz, a Punjabi-English newspaper. Just before 11 a.m., Ms. Bhangu's estranged husband, allegedly strode through the door with an axe and drove it into Ms. Bhangu as she was attempting to flee, screaming "Save me! Save me!" News photographer Narinder Nayar jumped in to intervene, but was fought off with a meat cleaver, suffering light injuries. Ms. Bhangu "died on the spot" said a witness.

In both cases, sources within Canada's South Asian communities fear the murders contain distinctive marks of honour killings. In both cases, the husbands turned themselves in and have been charged with first-degree murder.

Honour killings are different from standard cases of domestic violence, in that the killings are carried out in order to "cleanse" a family name of perceived dishonour.

The practice remains relatively rare in Canada, although experts agree there is an "upward trend" in Canadian instances of honourbased violence.

Between 2002 and 2010, Canada experienced 13 cases of honourbased murders, according to a 2010 report for the federal government by Amin Muhammad, a psychiatrist at Memorial University in St. John.

Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence Can Damage Long-term Mental Health

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/HEALTH/08/02/sexual.assault.domestic.violence/>

August 2, 2011 - Women are drastically more likely to develop a mental disorder at some point in their lives if they have been the victim of rape, sexual assault, stalking, or intimate partner violence, according to a new study in the Journal of American Medical Association.

While the connection between these harrowing experiences and poor mental health is hardly surprising, experts say the new findings highlight just how strongly the two problems are intertwined — and how important it is for doctors and other health-care workers to ask women about past episodes of violence, even if they happened years ago.

Researchers from Australia analyzed health data from a nationally representative sample of Australian women between the ages of 16 and 85. Episodes of sexual assault, stalking, and other "gender-based violence" were all too common, with 27% of the group experiencing at least one episode of abuse.

Fifty-seven percent of the women with a history of abuse had a history of depression, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress, substance abuse, or anxiety (including panic disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder), versus 28% of the women who had not experienced gender based violence.

Life Term Excessive, Appeal Court Says

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Life+term+excessive+appeal+court+says/5232187/story.html>

August 11, 2011 (Calgary, AB) - The province's highest court has overturned the life sentence against a man who viciously stabbed his pregnant common-law wife, leaving her for dead, then later harassed her and threatened her not to testify against him.

In a split 2-1 decision, the Alberta Court of Appeal replaced the life term with an 18-year total sentence for Gebre Abebe Tasew, who was described by the trial judge as having a "Jekyll and Hyde" personality.

Appellate court justices Frans Slatter and Bruce McDonald said the trial judge, Justice John Rooke, (*con't on next page*)

erred in suggesting there were two fit sentences for the attempted murder of “WB” on Aug. 6, 2006, then opted to impose the slightly more stringent penalty.

“The sentencing judge came to the conclusion that either a life sentence, or a fixed-term sentence of 16 years, would be fit sentences for this offender and these offences,” wrote the majority on the appeal court.

“It is not the mandate of the sentencing judge to identify a number of possible alternatives, and then leave it to the appellate court to select among them. The sentencing judge is to impose the sentences.”

Dissenting appellate Justice Jack Watson, despite the trial judge’s wrongful offering of two possible sentences, concluded he got it right and said he would have affirmed the life sentence.

“Taking the series of events as a whole, I am not persuaded that an enlightened public would regard a sentence other than life imprisonment to be adequately representative of (Tasew’s) crimes,” he said.

Husband Faces Murder Charge

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/todays-paper/Husband+faces+murder+charge/5259894/story.html>

August 16, 2011 - A Westlock man has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of his wife, a popular school teacher who was originally believed to have drowned during a vacation in British Columbia last summer.

Laura Letts-Beckett dies Aug. 19, 2010. At the time, it was believed she fell from a small Zodiac into Upper Arrow Lake, south of Revelstoke, B.C.

Police said she fell after standing up in the boat, but could not swim and was not wearing a life-jacket. The Journal was told at the time that her husband brought her body to shore.

On Monday, RCMP in B.C. said her 54-year-old husband, Peter, was arrested without incident near Christina Lake, B.C. on Aug. 12. He has been remanded in custody pending court on Thursday.

RCMP spokeswoman Cpl. Annie Linteau said police are not releasing any other information about the case.

Edmonton Man Gets Life For Killing, Dismembering Wife

<http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/Canada/20110908/tesfai-negasi-life-sentence-110908/>

September 8, 2011 (Edmonton, AB) - An Edmonton man who killed and dismembered his wife in 2009 has been sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for at least 17 years.

Fifty-four-year-old Tesfai Negasi was convicted of second-degree murder earlier this year.

A conviction of second-degree murder carries an automatic life sentence, but the court had to determine parole eligibility.

Negasi’s trial heard that in July 2009, he drove to police headquarters, confessed to officers and directed them to body parts wrapped in plastic bags in the trunk of his car.

Jurors were told the couple had an unhappy relationship and that Selamawit Negasi had an appointment with a divorce lawyer at the time she was killed.

Transit Workers Honoured For Helping In A Crisis

<http://www.stalbertgazette.com/article/20110917/SAG0801/309179970/-1/sag0801/transit-workers-honoured-for-helping-in-a-crisis>

September 17, 2011 (St. Albert, AB) - St. Albert honoured two of its workers Thursday for helping a woman in distress.

About a month ago, transit driver Darlene Malayako was driving a morning route when she noticed a situation at a bus stop that seemed like a domestic abuse situation in progress. Malayako stopped to see if the woman needed help.

“I could see she was distraught,” Malayako said. “I just stopped, waved her on the bus, she got on and we left.”

Malayako then called Morgan Smith, the supervisor on duty, who met her at the transit bus barn and kept the woman safe. *(Cont'd on next page)*

I didn't ask her any questions," Smith said. I didn't pry into what happened. I just offered my services 100 per cent."

This involved letting the woman make some calls on his cellphone.

"She came to the conclusion that going to the RCMP would be a very good idea so I seconded that and just gave her some words of encouragement and tried to ease her mind a little bit," he said.

Smith took the woman to the police detachment and stuck around for half an hour. Seeing that everything was OK on that front, he left and that was the end of transit's involvement.

St. Albert Transit is using the incident to publicize the fact that buses are a safe place to turn to for people in distress.

Domestic Abuse Costs Economy \$6.9b Yearly

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Domestic+abuse+costs+economy+yearly/5536661/story.html>

October 12, 2011 - The bitter aftermath of domestic violence costs Canadians about \$6.9 billion a year, a new study found.

The study, involving 309 women from across B.C., Ontario and New Brunswick, indicates that women who leave an abusive relationship suffer for many years from chronic pain, stress, or other health issues that are related to injuries or to the conditions of living under violence.

As a result, they visit emergency units and doctors more often than women who have not been in abusive relationships. They also struggle to find work and shelter immediately after they've separated from their partner, and end up relying more on food banks, charity organizations and other available social services.

So the costs on both the system and on private domains add up, said Colleen Varcoe, a professor of nursing at the University of B.C. who co-led the study with Simon Fraser University public policy Prof. Olena Hakivsky.

"What you begin to get is a picture of women who are...told, 'If you're experiencing violence, you should leave your partner,' yet the social supports are not really there for them," Varcoe said.

She said the current services available to women, such as crisis lines, police responses and shelters are helpful as immediate services.

However, more long-term support, such as affordable counseling, social housing, easier access to social assistance and employment programs that provide skill training, are needed, she said.

New Technology for Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/crime/2011/10/30/new-technology-for-domestic-violence-and-stalking-victims/>

October 30, 2011 - Susan Murphy-Milano, an intimate partner specialist, is unveiling new high-tech application which gives a voice to victims of domestic violence at the Techno—Forensic Conference this week in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The application—developed by WetStone Technologies, a wholly owned subsidiary of Allen Corp—gives domestic violence and stalking victims a chance to document, through video, prior abuse and threats against their lives. Called an Evidentiary Abuse Affidavit, it has the capability of providing vital information that could aid in a suspect's arrest and provide a solid criminal case for prosecutors.

"It's powerful investigative information left in a videotaped document that is delivered directly to law enforcement and selected safe persons," Murphy-Milano explains. "In cases that result in murder, the victim's words can be admitted into testimony at trial as a 'Last Will and Testament' and carry weight in court."

The Evidentiary Abuse Affidavit is documentation and information coming directly from the victim, providing the offender's description, identity, behavior, and possible motivation.

Most of all, says Murphy-Milano, the tool gives a voice to those who have previously been silenced.

"In the past, victim's were silenced," she says. "If the victim was missing or dead, testimony given on her behalf by others who knew of the violence, knew about threats made against her, or knew of possible (cont'd

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motives for her murder, have been dismissed as hearsay. Now, with the Evidentiary Abuse Affidavit, the victim will have documented her abuse through video and other legal procedures that will allow it to be used in court as her words, should she disappear or be murdered.”

Serial Domestic Abuser Handed Eight Years in Jail for Arson

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Serial-domestic-abuser-handed-eight-years-jail-arson/5636929/story.html>

November 1, 2011 (Calgary, AB) - A man described as a serial domestic abuser has been handed an eight-year prison sentence for setting fire in the middle of the night to a home where his ex-girlfriend worked as a nurse to assist a two-year-old special-needs girl.

The judge said the actions of Randy Clinton Davis, 40, not only put Leanne Cook but the entire Nichols family at risk of life-threatening injuries on May 15, 2009.

“The accused was motivated by revenge against his ex-girlfriend and targeted not only his former intimate partner, but her innocent employers and their family,” said Judge Sharon Van de Veen.

“His recklessness and lack of concern for innocent victims is significant. The fire was set at night and in circumstances where the accused knew there was a disable child dependent upon oxygen tanks for survival in the residence.”

The judge said Davis sent a series of text messages to Cook over the course of the previous evening, once says, “If I can’t have you, no one can.”

He then took a jerry can, poured gasoline around the house and set it alight about 3:40 a.m.

Family Law Overhaul Seeks to Save Lives

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/bc-politics/family-law-overhaul-seeks-to-save-lives/article2235999/>

November 14, 2011 (Victoria, B.C.) - Family law in British Columbia will define domestic violence for the first time, part of a major package of changes that aims to cut down on court battles - and save lives.

The new Family Law Act, introduced on Monday by Attorney-General Shirley Bond, is intended to defuse conflicts when relationships break down by encouraging mediation and offering clear rules that reflect the make-up of the modern family. It also creates a new class of protection order when the risk of violence is detected.

The changes to the existing legislation, which hasn’t been overhauled since 1978, will have broad repercussions right across the spectrum of family law.

The law defines who is the legal parent when children are born through assisted reproduction, and eliminates the possibility of parents suing their children for support. When kids are involved in a breakup, the courts will be directed to consider their best interests as the overriding issue when determining settlements.

Major changes are coming as well to the division of property. Significant assets that people bring into a relationship - such as a home or an inheritance - will be exempt from the 50-50 split that generally follows if that partnership dissolves.

The rules concerning the division of property will also, for the first time, apply to common-law couples who separate.

The 195-page bill will take up to come into force - the time it is expected to bring judges, lawyers and other family justice professionals up to speed on the many changes.

The law will instruct the courts that emotional and psychological abuse can be components of family violence. It replaces the use of restraining orders with a new protection order if the courts deem that family members are at risk of domestic violence. Unlike a restraining order, a protection order could be granted even if a family’s case isn’t in the court system, and will be enforced under the Criminal Code, meaning stiffer penalties for violating it.

Since the beginning of 2008, 70 people have died in domestic violence in B.C., including 14 children and youth.

Threat Assessment Tools

I-TRAC is a joint forces multi-disciplined threat assessment unit that prepares risk assessment reports and case management plans for intimate partner violence and stalking cases in Alberta. The threat assessment process involves the analysis of verbal, written, behavioural, personal and situational indicators to assess the likelihood of violent acts. These indicators are based on scientific research conducted by a number of disciplines including the medical and mental health professions, law enforcement and specialists in the field of threat management, as well as, the training and experience of the threat assessor. The information assists threat assessors to make an informed statement concerning violence risk using standardized measures. Various assessment tools/schemes and concepts are utilized in assessing a categorization of risk, tools that vary and are dependent upon the type of violence being considered. They include, but are not limited, to the following:

Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA)

Created by P. Randall Kropp, Stephen D. Hart, Christopher D. Webster & Derek Eaves

The SARA was created to help criminal justice professionals predict the likelihood of future domestic violence. This tool is a quality-control checklist that determines the extent to which a professional has assessed risk factors of crucial predictive importance according to clinical and empirical importance. The SARA checklist of risk factors for spousal assault is comprised of 20 individual items which are grouped into five content areas; criminal history, psychosocial adjustment, spousal assault history, alleged (current) offence and other considerations. Before the checklist is completed, it is imperative that all available sources of information are utilized when considering risk for repeated violence. Such sources could include interviews with the accused and victim, review of police reports, victim statements, criminal records, a review of the subjects' relationship, physical and mental health history as well as current mental status, life stressors and social support networks.

Historical, Clinical, Risk Management-20 (HCR-20)

Created by Kevin S. Douglas, Christopher D. Webster, Stephen D. Hart, Derek Eaves & James R. P. Ogloff

The Historical, Clinical and Risk Management (HCR-20) violence risk assessment tool is a 20-item checklist used to assess the risk for future violent behaviour in criminal and psychiatric populations. The 20-item checklist is broken down into three sections; 10 historical items (ie. previous violence, family, employment history etc.), five clinical items (current symptomology – ie. negative attitudes, lack of insight etc.) and five risk management items (forecasts how individuals will adjust to future circumstances – serves to stimulate development of appropriate risk management plans).

Guidelines for Stalking Assessment and Management (SAM)

Created by P. Randall Kropp, Stephen D. Hart & David R. Lyon

The SAM is a set of structured professional judgment guidelines for the assessment and management of risk for stalking. The SAM helps users to exercise their best judgment; it is not a replacement for professional discretion. Its purpose is to introduce a systematic, standardized, and practical framework for gathering and considering information when making decisions about stalking. The factors considered in SAM are divided into three domains; Nature of Stalking – includes 10 factors related to the pattern of stalking behaviour, Perpetrator Risk Factors – 10 factors reflecting the psychosocial adjustment and background of the perpetrator, and Victim Vulnerability Factors – 10 factors reflecting the psychosocial adjustment and background of the victim.

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The Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP)

Created by Stephen D. Hart, P. Randall Kropp, & D. Richard Laws with Jessica Klaver, Caroline Logan, & Kelly A. Watt

The RSVP is similar to the HCR-20 but focuses on the risk of future sexual violence. Administration of the RSVP comprises 6 steps. In step 1, evaluators gather case information. In step 2, evaluators code the presence of 22 individual risk factors from 5 domains. In step 3, evaluators determine the relevance of the individual risk factors with respect to the development of risk management plans. In step 4, evaluators identify and describe the most likely scenarios of future sexual violence. In step 5, evaluators recommend strategies for managing sexual violence risk in light of the relevant risk factors and scenarios of risk. In step 6, evaluators document their judgments regarding overall risk in the case.

Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (O'DARA)

Created by N. Zoe Hilton, Grant T. Harris, & Marnie E. Rice

The O'DARA is a risk assessment tool used to assess risk of future wife assault, as well as the frequency and severity of these assaults. The O'DARA was created from research on nearly 600 cases from the Ontario Provincial Police and municipal police forces. Using multiple regression techniques, the researchers found that 13 questions were the most highly predictive of future violence. The 13 yes/no questions cover the accused man's history of violence and antisocial behaviour, details of the most recent assault, and the victim's personal circumstances. Higher scores on the O'DARA indicate that an accused assaulter will commit more assaults, commit them sooner, and cause more injury than an accused with a lower score.



I-TRAC staff would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

