

# FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION: SUPPORTING SYSTEMIC RESPONSES TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE



University  
of Regina



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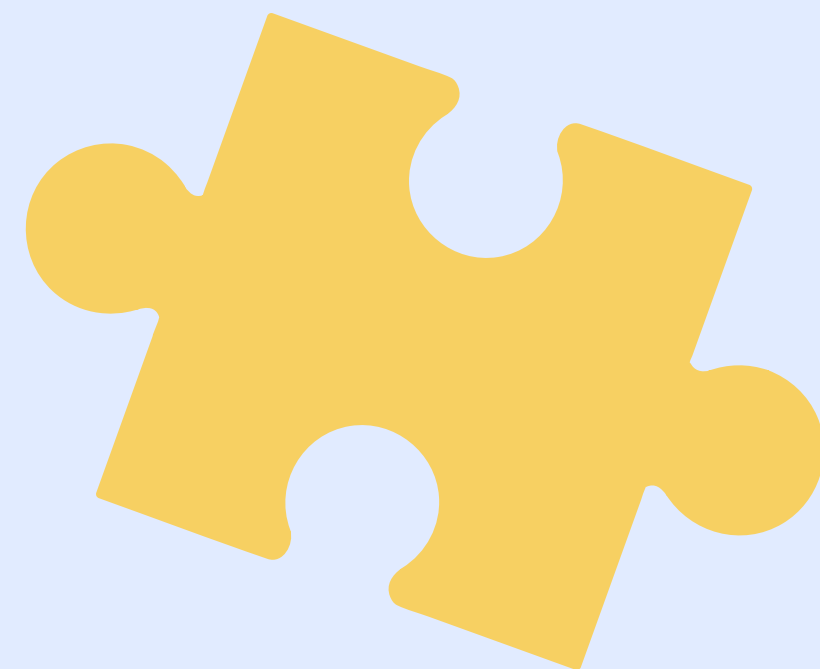
**Virtual Conference**  
**November 9-10, 2021**

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***External Event Report***

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# CONFERENCE PURPOSE

## VISION

This conference sought to bring together frontline workers, service providers, policymakers, researchers, students, etc., from a variety of disciplines and fields, to share knowledge, experience, tools, and resources related to the impacts of sexual violence trauma.

## MISSION & COMMITMENT

This conference sought to create a space to foster diverse understandings of sexual violence trauma and elevate best practices, programs, and services being offered, in order to enhance response to victims/survivors and those at risk. The conference committed to offering keynotes and breakout sessions that provided diverse perspectives and practical tools for those whose work is impacted by service users' experiences of sexual violence.

## RATIONALE

Justice Canada found that the annual national cost of violence in 2009 was 12.7 billion a year - \$376 per Canadian - spent on lost productivity, sick time, incarceration, mental health care, unemployment, addictions, homelessness, etc. The largest single cost of 4.8 billion was directly related to sexual assault (Hoddenbagh et al., 2014), which creates a ripple effect for our communities. This dollar amount has drastically increased within the decade since the study's completion. Saskatchewan has a disproportionately high rate of sexual assault in Canada, with Manitoba and the Territories being the only areas in Canada with a higher sexual assault rate than Saskatchewan (Keighley, 2017).

As the risks of gender-based and sexual violence are reported as increasing in the midst of COVID-19, it is becoming increasingly important to shape community- and evidence-based cross-disciplinary responses. This conference has been shaped to facilitate this de-siloing of knowledge and services in order to grow a stronger network based on diverse and multiple understandings not only of the responses to sexual violence but to the social and health determinants.

# SUPPORT

## *University of Regina*

Centre for Continuing Education  
Faculty of Nursing  
Faculty of Science  
Faculty of Business Administration  
Faculty of Education  
Faculty of Social Work  
Faculty of Engineering  
Faculty of Arts  
Student Affairs  
University of Regina Conference Fund  
Childhood Trauma Research Centre

## *Non-Institutional*

Regina Sexual Assault Centre  
\$25,000 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Centre (SSHRC) grant

# STRUCTURE

**Production:** Virtual Hubilo platform; Plenary and Zoom streaming; AV Services Canada Production

**Date:** November 9 & 10, 2021

**Keynote sessions:** 2 morning Keynotes; 1 Keynote each day\*

**Live breakout sessions:** 12 live breakout sessions; 75 minutes each\*

**Pre-recorded presentations:** 7 recorded breakout sessions; between 15-60 minutes\*

**Total presenters:** 1 Emcee; 5 greeters; 2 welcome activity providers; 32 presenters\*

# MEDIA

**Website:** <https://www.rsacconference.ca/>

**Facebook Event:** [Supporting Systemic Responses to Sexual Violence](#)

**Twitter:** [@RSACConf2021](#)

**Media Interviews:** CTV News; CTV Morning Live; Regina Leader-Post

# CONFERENCE LOGISTICS

\*Please see Appendix A for the event agenda

# **PARTICIPATION**

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**Total Registrants**

**213**

**Total Live Presentation Views**

**1,024**

**Total Pre-Recorded Presentation Views**

**304**

# NETWORKING

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## Event Feed Activity

4 Posts  
3 Likes  
5 Comments

## Messages Exchanged

100 Messages  
147 Chat Messages  
12 Q&A Messages

## Profile Views

355 Views  
8 Bookmarks

## Speaker Profile Views

*156 Total Speaker Views  
Most Viewed Speaker:  
Tyler Meadows*

Lounge Table  
Participants  
2 Participants

# CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

## EVALUATION SURVEY RESPONSES

### *Survey Respondents*

There were 56 total survey respondents. Respondents mainly consisted of individuals from the not-for-profit, University, and Government sectors.

### *Identified Participant Outcomes*

Behavioural outcomes  
Critical knowledge  
Cultural outcomes  
Enhanced policy  
Enhanced professional practice  
Enriched public discourse  
New or enhanced collaborations/partnerships  
Quality of life/well-being  
Training and skill development

Within these categories, participants noted a particular impact on their ability to shape new partnerships, gain critical knowledge, enhance professional practice, and training and skill development.

### *Participant Self-Assessment of Sexual Violence Trauma Knowledge*

#### **Pre-Conference:**

63.42% of respondents assessed their knowledge at a 7/10 or below  
36.59% of respondents assessed their knowledge at an 8/10 or above  
21.96% of respondents assessed their knowledge at a 5/10 or below

#### **Post-Conference:**

71.8% of respondents assessed their knowledge at an 8/10 or above  
20.5% of respondents assessed their knowledge at a 7/10  
0% of respondents assessed their knowledge at a 5/10 or below

# CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

*"Awesome conference. Well done. Great Speakers."*

*"It was a very informative and well organized conference I appreciate all the hard work from so many people."*

*"Thank you for assembling an incredible line-up of presenters and content! I also really appreciate that there is still access to recordings and resources for a period after the conference, as there was too much going on at once to take it all in!"*

*"I find this conference and this information to be incredibly valuable and important. To be totally honest, though, if this conference is to be run again there needs to be more breaks ... The information covered was just so heavy and especially trying to observe online it was incredibly mentally draining to keep up for the 2 full days with such limited breaks ... I appreciate the conference and everything that was done to make it happen. My only suggestion is to give it more time."*

*"Platform was pleasing to the eye and easy to use. AV Services made the experience smooth. Sabeen definitely added a professional feel to the event. People behind the scenes kept things on track and seamless."*

*"I did enjoy the different presentations and I love to see more of this in the future."*

# ***APPENDIX A***

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***November 9-10, 2021  
Conference Agenda***

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**Virtual Conference**  
**November 9-10, 2021**

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For more information, visit  
[www.rsacconference.ca](http://www.rsacconference.ca) or contact  
[rsacconference2021@uregina.ca](mailto:rsacconference2021@uregina.ca)



***With Keynote Speakers:***



***Dr. Lori Haskell***

*The Neurobiology of Trauma*



***Dr. Jennifer Mullan***

*Reconnecting the Soul Wound in a Colonial  
World*

# November 9

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8:15am

***Welcome & Opening Remarks***

9:00am

**Dr. Lori Haskell**

***Trauma Informed Practice - Understanding the Neurobiological and Psychological Effects of Sexual Violence***

12:00pm

***Lunch & Student Symposium***

12:30pm

**Kate Kiernan & Billy Brodovsky**

***Lessons Learned – Working from a Trauma-Informed Neurobiological Perspective with children who have experienced third party sexual assault and their families***

12:30pm

**Dr. Lori Haskell & Dr. Melanie Randall**

***Concurrent Presentation***

***Gender Based Violence and Restorative Justice: Exploring the Possibilities***

2:00pm

**Dr. Alexis Arbuthnott & Kathryn Strendin**

***Inpatient Mental Health Care for youth who have experienced sexual violence***

2:00pm

**Shelley Thomas-Prokop & Karen Sanderson**

***Concurrent Presentation***

***Building Culturally Relevant Practice, Policies and Standards in Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Shelters***

3:15pm

**Dr. Cathy Rocke & Laurie MacKenzie**

***Working with Exploited Youth***

3:15pm

**Patience Umereweneza**

***Concurrent Presentation***

***Sexual Violence in Saskatchewan: Voices, Stories, Insights and Actions from the Front Lines***

4:30pm

***End of Day Wrap-Up***

# November 10

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9:00am

**Welcome & Opening Remarks**

9:30am

**Dr. Jennifer Mullan**

*Reconnecting the Soul Wound in a Colonial World*

11:30am

**Lunch & Networking**

12:15pm

**Dr. Catherine Barrett**

*Preventing Sexual Assault of Older Women -  
Practical Strategies From Australia*

12:15pm

*Concurrent  
Presentation*

**Myrna McCallum**

*Trauma-informed legal practice and working with  
victims/survivors of sexualized violence*

2:00pm

**Sarah Wiley & Jeneka Johnson**

*Disordered Eating Recovery for Survivors of Sexual  
Violence*

2:00pm

*Concurrent  
Presentation*

**Dr. Lynn Gidluck**

*The Power of Community/University Partnerships  
(and the pitfalls to avoid)*

3:15pm

**Emily Ritenburg**

*Sex (Work) positive practices for mental health  
service providers*

3:15pm

*Concurrent  
Presentation*

**Sunny Marriner**

*VAW Advocate Case Review: An Emerging Best  
Practice in Sexual Assault Investigations*

4:30pm

**Conference Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks**

# Pre-Recorded Presentations

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**Caralyn Goode & Brianna Taylor**

*Keeping Youth Safe Online*

**Billy Brodovsky, Kate Kiernan, Cori Reimer, &**

**Veroniek Marshall**

*Making Sense of Trauma*

**Nicole White & Jessica McCutcheon**

*Enough Already: An Evidence-based Response to the Prevention of Sexual Harassment In the Workplace*

**Sarah Wiley**

*Bolstering Healthy Relationships Education for Marginalized Youth: The Empower and Allyship Program*

**Cecilia Rands**

*Upstander Training for Men*

**D.M. Ditson**

*Wide Open: A Personal Story of Sexual Assault and Recovery*

**Lisa Miller & Chris Jackiw**

*Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review - Regina Project*