



February, 2012

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Kim Pate and Bill C-10

Early in the morning of October 20th, many people gathered at Trinity United Church to celebrate Persons Day, commemorating when women were made persons under the British North American Act of 1867.

Those who participated enjoyed a delicious breakfast as well as a speech from Kim Pate, the Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS).

Kim Pate has recently been given the Governor General's Persons Award for her tireless work in women's rights within Canada's prisons. She is an advocate for law reform, oversight of Corrections Canada, criminal justice reform and has spearheaded the work of developing Human Rights in Action

books for use in both federal and provincial prisons.

At the breakfast, Kim Pate spoke about the over-representation of Aboriginal women in the justice system and its link to colonization, and the enormous costs that will be borne by society because of the Conservative government's Omnibus Crime bill.

The Crime Bill, Bill C-10, is currently before the Senate.

How Bill C-10 could impact women:

- Mandatory minimum sentencing means more women serving time in jail instead of receiving other sentencing options such as house arrest which would allow mothers to still take care of

their children.

- Early parole is proposed to be removed, meaning longer time spent in prison.
- Eliminating pardons (specific conditions) and increasing the length of time before being able to apply for a pardon, thereby decreasing the chance of employment, a key component of reintegration.
- Will also affect female correctional staff in making pay equity more difficult to access and fight for.

Take Action!:

http://www.elizabethfry.ca/caefs_e.htm

— information from The Peterborough Examiner, CAEFS, CBC

Staff Changes

At the end of October, Joan Corrigan resigned as Executive Director. She had been with us for a little over 2 years. We wish her well.

Our new Executive Director is Patricia Zimmer. She has been with the Elizabeth Fry Society for 2½ years and brings 14 years experience working with the YWCA to her position as well.

Patricia is remaining in her prisoner advocate role part-time as well which opened up a position for one more person.

We have also welcomed Samantha Gervais as our new part-time Support Counsellor. Samantha worked previously with YWCA

Crossroads and has a BA in Women's Studies.



Patricia Zimmer

Photo credit: Matt Stinson from We Design



Our 20th Anniversary

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough was incorporated on December 12th 1991. The agency is committed to advocating for and supporting women who are facing the criminal justice system, women who are incarcerated and women who are at risk of coming into conflict with the law

Advocacy and case management with women facing criminal charges often allows for a more positive outcome at court than would otherwise be possible, often resulting in a lesser sentence or charges withdrawn.

Programs from 6 to 10 weeks long are offered to address issues of anger management, self esteem, abusive relationships and solutions for theft, fraud and breach of trust. These programs are attended by women before the courts, women on probation and women from the community interested in empowering themselves through education.

Individual supportive counselling is always available to women before, during and after participation in formal programs. As well, a weekly Peer Support drop in group

offers ongoing support. Cooking classes provide women with a fun opportunity to learn to make nutritious and inexpensive meals for themselves and their families.

A prisoner advocate visits women at the prison in Lindsay, helping them access services and supports during their incarceration and after their discharge. A group program dealing with abusive relationships is also offered in the jail

The Elizabeth Fry Society celebrated our anniversary at the annual Christmas party for clients and volunteers.

“The one institution that can never say no to anybody is jail.”

Steve Leifman,
advisor to
Florida
Supreme Court

Restorative Practices

The Elizabeth Fry Society is continuing to expand its use of restorative practices and restorative justice.

Our court support coordinator, Jordon Hale developed and facilitated 10 workshops on restorative practice this past fall. The workshops gave people from different agencies an opportunity to learn about restorative practice, its

history and its process, all while participating in a restorative practice circle.

We also continue to be linked to the Peterborough Restorative Practices Network and contributed to making the network's evening with Mark Yantzi in November a success. The Restorative Practices Network is now planning events surrounding the Na-

tional Victims Awareness Week in April.

In its hope to bring restorative justice into the adult criminal justice system, the Elizabeth Fry Society has received funding to facilitate 3 formal restorative justice conferences. Requests for a conference can come from any woman involved in a criminal case.

Volunteer Appreciation

Elizabeth Fry receives funding from participating in the Kawartha Bingo Sponsor's Association. Volunteering at Kawartha Club Bingo has proven to be a valuable resource for our agency.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their hard work at the bingo hall! We greatly appreciate their

efforts in being representatives for the agency.

More volunteers are needed. Volunteering requires being available Friday afternoons (but not every Friday) and maybe an occasional special bingo event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Holly: 705-749-6809,

info@efryptbo.org.



Community Support Court

The past September, marked the beginning of the first Community Support Court (CSC) in Peterborough. CSC recognizes that offending behaviour can happen as a result of underlying mental health and/or addiction problems.

The goals of CSC are:

1. Address mental health and addiction issues which underlie the offending behavior.
2. Reduce recidivism rates.

3. Increase community service partnerships and provision of care to participants.

CSC uses a non-adversarial approach and focuses on rehabilitation and reintegration. A multi-disciplinary team of a dedicated Crown attorney and judge, police, PRHC psychiatry, Probation, CMHA and 4CAST meet together to determine the needs and suitability of referred clients and

to determine treatment plans.

Referrals can be made through 4CAST, CMHA, Elizabeth Fry, a lawyer, Duty Counsel or by the individual themselves.

The Elizabeth Fry Society is excited to be involved in this important project.

“My prescription for reform maintains that an evolutionary process must begin at the level of improving Canadian mental health and social service standards as a condition precedent to stopping the human spillover into the criminal justice system.”

Archie Kaiser,
Towards a Model
Community Mental
Health Strategy.
Presented at SLSC &
CCJA Towards a
Community Mental
Health Fora, Halifax,
Nova Scotia.



Program Spotlight: Cooking

Cooking Class provides an opportunity for our clients to gather together and learn how to prepare a full meal. Classes usually include three or four nutritious and budget conscious recipes which women prepare together.

After the food is prepared, all the women take some home — usually enough for two or three servings of every-

thing. Participants are also given a grocery store gift card each week.

A taste of some of what the most recent class has prepared:

- Turkey pot-pie
- Spinach salad
- Triple fudge brownies
- Apple crisp
- Squash and apple soup

- Garden pork stirfry

Besides food, the program also provides a secondary service for the women. While food is being prepared, the women talk, have a time of comradery and peer support. It's also fun!

Winter Cooking Program:
Feb. 23rd — March 29th
Thursdays 1 — 3 PM

Elizabeth Fry Programs

Women and Integrity: Solutions for Theft, Fraud and Breach of Trust: This court-recognized program addresses self-esteem, depression, underlying causes of risky behaviours, and ways to help prevent relapse.

Anger Solutions: This program helps women assume responsibility for their actions by developing an understanding of the origins of their anger, the theory of anger development and techniques for effectively and safely expressing and releasing anger.

Taking Control: Making Healthy Relationship Choices: This program provides practical ways and means for women to identify abuse in relationships and to learn ways to manage risk and increase safety.

Wellness and Self-esteem: The goal of this group is to assist women in developing their self-esteem by exploring relationships between self-image, self-acceptance, self-awareness and self-worth.

Next Group:
Feb.9th — March 29th
Thursdays 10AM — 12PM

Next Group:
Jan. 24th — March 27th
Tuesdays 1 — 3PM

Next Group:
April 19th — May 24th
Thursdays 1 — 3PM

Next Group:
April 7th — June 5th
Tuesdays 1 — 3PM



Central East Correctional Centre Christmas Party

On December 13th, the women imprisoned at Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay had their Christmas party, officially called the “Elizabeth Fry Christmas Party.”

Entertainment was provided by Faith Nolan who also runs a music program with the women. In her program, women write songs about their experiences at CECC and their experiences that may have led them to their time at CECC.

The Elizabeth Fry Society

of Peterborough gave two king-sized chocolate bars to the women with help from a donation from Soroptimists International of Peterborough. The women also received gift bags with puzzle books, body lotion, deodorant and toothpaste provided by Sistering of Toronto.

Thirty-five women attended the party. Cookies, fruit trays, pop and water were provided by CECC. The women seemed to have a lot of fun, despite the whole experience being somewhat chaotic and surreal. The party

provided a welcome change from the usual routine and an opportunity to socialize with women on other ranges.



Placement Student Reflections from Holly

The past semester was an especially difficult one for me – not because it’s particularly hard to work at the Elizabeth Fry Society, but because I had a dear friend die, as well as a boatload of other stresses to contend with. That being said, I consider myself very fortunate to have done my placement here since I was surrounded by women who are very caring and supportive. The Elizabeth Fry Soci-

ety became a kind of refuge for me – much the same as it does for its clients – that provided a place for me to focus on something real and inspiring.

I have one more semester to finish at Fleming College and I’m looking forward to reporting to my classmates all that I’ve discovered while on placement here. The Elizabeth Fry Society provided a

different set of lenses for looking at the criminal justice system that I just wouldn’t have had the exposure to while sitting through more lectures. Thank you for this opportunity!

**The Elizabeth Fry
Society of Peterborough**

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In the spirit of freedom.



We are committed to advocating and providing services for all criminalized and imprisoned women, as well as those at risk of coming into conflict with the law. We recognize the rights of women to dignity and respect in all aspects of their involvement with the criminal justice system. We are committed to working with other agencies and all levels of government with similar principles and objectives.

Women's rights are human rights. Women are entitled to equality. This means the right of access to equal opportunities and programs in the justice system, justice without fear of prejudice or discrimination on the basis of such factors as gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion, and social or economic conditions. Women who are criminalized should not be imprisoned and all efforts should be made to prevent women from being incarcerated, and to facilitate the earliest community reintegration of those who are sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.EFRYPTBO.ORG

FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 ReFrame Film Festival "Mothers of Bedford" 12PM @ Showplace	30	31 Anger Solutions 1 – 3PM	February 1 Peer Support 1 – 3PM Lindsay Self-esteem group Begins	2	3 Community Support Court	4
5	6	7 Anger Solutions 1 – 3PM	8 Peer Support 1 – 3PM Lindsay Self-esteem group	9 Women & Integrity Begins 10AM – 12PM	10	11
12	13	14 Anger Solutions 1 – 3PM	15 Peer Support 1 – 3PM Lindsay Self-esteem group	16 Women & Integrity 10AM – 12PM	17 Community Support Court	18
19	20 Closed for Family Day	21 Anger Solutions 1 – 3PM	22 Peer Support 1 – 3PM Lindsay Self-esteem group	23 Women & Integrity 10AM – 12PM Cooking Class Begins 1 – 3PM	24	25
26	27	28 Anger Solutions 1 – 3PM	29 Peer Support 1 – 3PM Lindsay Self-esteem group	March 1 Women & Integrity 10AM – 12PM Cooking Class 1 – 3PM	2 Community Support Court	3