



Women's shelters crying wolf in order to get more money for their questionable activities

By Rosemary Underwood

In a recent article written by Lisa Queen of the Metroland York Region Newspaper Group, "Women's shelters overrun in region – operators await money as promised by province," it was described how more money was needed to help women flee their abusive husbands.

To get maximum public sympathy, the perfect victim was used - a single mother and her three daughters were described by Ms. Queen as victims that would have to return to their abusive partner if the taxpayer's did not come through with enough money to subsidize a home for the woman and her children to live in.

While no one would deny that there is a need to care for genuine victims of family violence, no one seems interested or willing to grasp the importance of stopping it at the source by determining WHY the initiators of the violence, female as well as male, do what they do.

The common assumption that men are the only perpetrators and that they use violence as a means of displaying their "power" over women simply does not stand up under scrutiny any more. Anger, violence, murder and suicide are not always expressions of power. They are more apt to be expressions of powerlessness!

Province of Alberta statistics, as an example, show that in 2002/2003 for every 1 man that killed his spouse there were 59 men who killed themselves. Surely anyone can recognize this is not an expression of power. As long as governments continue to spend all their resources on programs based on shaming, blaming and finding new and better ways to punish men, while at the same time denying the statistically equal role that women play in

initiating violence, the problem will not go away. If anything, current government policies of funding women's shelters which are staffed by those without any kind of training or accountability, many of whom are bitter men-haters, will only make matters worse and push the costs to taxpayers even higher.

The role these women's shelters play in this degradation of men by the indoctrination of their clients (including male children) into the belief that all men are abusers and to be feared, should not be minimized. During a recent interview of two young children who had stayed at a women's shelter, the children described how they had been forced to watch videos of "dads beating up moms." Their mother who stayed in the shelter at the same time said that she was not advised of what her children were being taught during the "children's programs" at the shelter.

This practice of indoctrinating women and children, usually employed by persons with no qualifications other than that they themselves have been abused, permanently destroys marriages that might otherwise be salvaged if treated with unbiased marital counselling by professionally trained staff. Moreover, surely it does not require a degree in Psychology to imagine the identity crisis this must create for male children who are being told that they are going to grow up to be wife abusers.

The solution is simple. Far from throwing more money at shelters that exacerbate this feeling of helplessness, the government should convert all the women's shelters to "Family Crisis Support Centres". Hire professionally trained caseworkers or retrain existing staff if they can be shown salvageable. Hire people

with a proven track record of understanding the dynamics of successful family relationships rather than hiring those who have a distain of men. Involve all members of the community to help and to get involved, not exclude men, as is currently the case.

Welcome women, children AND MEN to receive support, counselling, treatment, and legal aid. Most important of all understand and appreciate the existence of female abusers and provide them with needed anger management counselling. Also acknowledge the existence of male victims and provide whatever support they need.

Politically based gender stereotyping that poisons current debate must be replaced with scientific facts and research. It is a travesty that hysterical feminist propaganda, with no basis in scientific fact and serving only to promote hatred against men, is funded with tax dollars. How can men be expected to participate in finding meaningful solutions in an atmosphere of shame, blame, and draconian punishment?

The first priority must be the needs of children. The cycle of violence cannot be broken without reducing the violence that children see and receive. We must stop ignoring the scientific evidence that their mothers or other female caregivers commit the vast majority of abuse against children. We must acknowledge that broken families lead to single parent families and that, according to Stats Canada, children from fatherless single parent families are 2.3 times more likely to experience social, emotional, educational, legal, and a host of other problems than those from two parent homes.

One additional problem requiring urgent attention is the growing number of unscrupulous lawyers who routinely advise their female clients to falsely allege abuse and check into women's shelters. Impostors who are there strictly for a free ride at taxpayer's expense are thus using beds, which are needed for the genuinely abused.

One impostor who was a very affluent woman from Halton, Ontario with assets totalling nearly half a million dollars including a

new car and luxury condominiums in Toronto, was in the local shelter supported by taxpayers, most of whom would own only a fraction of her wealth. Never once was she asked do disclose her financial worth before being allowed to stay in the shelter. While she claimed to be fleeing abuse, she never divulged to shelter staff that, on occasion, she was still sleeping with her husband and the kids in the former matrimonial home.

This reprehensible practice of fraudulently staying in a women's shelter ensures clear sailing through the courts for lawyers' clients. It also ensures maternal custody of the children with a minimal effort on the part of the lawyer, while often completely devastating innocent fathers.

This requires the client to perjure herself. This should be treated and punished as the crime it is. Counselling to commit perjury is also a crime and no lawyer who practices this contemptible behaviour should escape the full penalty of the law.

The abuse of tax dollars by these shelters, accountable to no one, should be a concern to all who pay taxes. But the greater travesty is that these shelters destroy marriages, drive innocent men to suicide, support only one segment of society (women), to the detriment of others, (children, men and the elderly), corrupt the minds of gullible women and, most reprehensible of all, poison the minds of impressionable children. That they are permitted to do this at taxpayer expense speaks volumes about gender bias injustice in Canada.

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