

Family Violence Initiatives Province of Alberta for CF Family Crisis Team Workshop

2007

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Alberta Justice and Attorney General

A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of brown and tan, positioned at the bottom of the slide.

July 28, 2005 Headlines

One day in Alberta newspapers

Police would not respond to 911 call

Her common law husband is charged with 2nd degree murder

Husband is charged with 2nd degree murder and indignity to a dead body

Woman likens ex-common law to Manson

A man who made thousands of threatening phone calls to three ex-girlfriends sentenced to 3 ½ years

ALBERTA

- Highest reported rate of spousal assault
- Second highest rate of spousal homicide
- Highest rate of criminal harassment victimization/stalking
- 58% of those stalked by a current or former spouse, also reported being the victim of spousal violence
- 62% were abused by spouses
- 2005 - 112 homicides
 - 45 family related
 - RCMP 31 of 49 homicides



ABORIGINAL

- Aboriginal women:
 - significantly more likely to experience spousal assault (24%)
 - more severe forms of violence
 - have a much higher rate of spousal homicide
 - As many as 80 per cent of Aboriginal women have been abused by a partner.



CANADA

- 21% of women abused by a partner were assaulted during pregnancy
- 40% reporting that the abuse *began* during pregnancy



CANADA

- Increased cost for violence against women:
 - social
 - health, and
 - criminal justice

Over \$4 billion annually



Statistics in Canada

2003 Homicides:

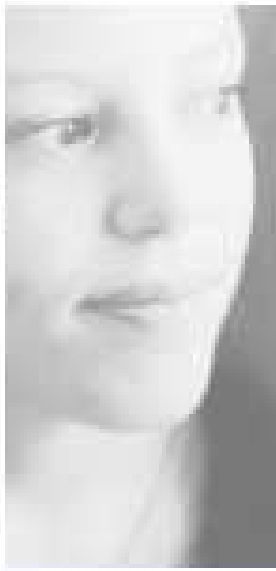
- 139 family-related homicides (84 gang related murders)
- 89 intimate partners
- 35 murder-suicide
- 1,056 homicides 1991-2000, 80% women





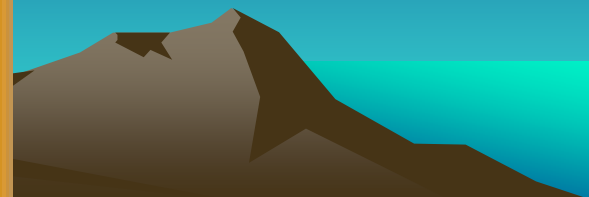
Alberta

www.justice.gov.ab.ca



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HANDBOOK

for Police and Crown Prosecutors in Alberta



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GUIDELINES FOR POLICE



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GUIDELINES FOR CROWN PROSECUTORS



Family Violence Information Report “FVIR”

- Supplemental Police Report Form
- Pilot Test Project
- 10 Alberta locations
- 19 questions associated with high risk
 - Bail hearings
 - Sentencing
 - Victim safety planning



FIELD ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL (FAST)

Instructions: Obtain information within first 12 hours of investigation from CPIC, Complainant, Witness, etc. Use the "Officer's Notes" for preparing police report.

*** INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR BAIL HEARING

RELATIONSHIP: 1. Current status of relationship: Is there past, recent or pending separation in the relationship?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Officer's Notes
2. Previous Domestic Violence History: Is there a history of violence or abusive behaviour in the relationship?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	***Bail
3. Escalation in Abuse: Is there escalation in the frequency/intensity of violence or abuse towards the complainant, family members or another person?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Child Abuse: Are there children under 18 in the family who are abused or have been exposed to abuse?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Children's Services Notified? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
COMPLAINANT: 5. Complainant's Perception of Personal Safety: Does the complainant believe the suspect will disobey terms of release (eg. no contact orders)?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	***Bail
6. Complainant's Perception of Future Violence: Does the complainant fear further violence if the suspect should be released from custody?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	***Bail
SUSPECT HISTORY: 7. Suspect's Criminal Violence History: Does the suspect have a history of charges or convictions for violence and/or sex assaults?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	***Bail
8. Alcohol/Drugs: Does the suspect have a history of drug or alcohol abuse?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	***Bail
9. Threats: Has the suspect ever threatened to kill or harm the complainant, family member or another person?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Weapons: Has the suspect used or threatened to use a weapon against the complainant, family member or an animal, or does the suspect have access to weapons?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Court Orders: Has the suspect ever violated a court order?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Employment Instability: Is the suspect unemployed or experiencing financial problems?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Forced Sex: Has the suspect ever forced sex on the complainant?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Mental Illness: Does the suspect have a history of mental illness (eg. depression or paranoia)?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	***Bail
15. Suicidal Ideations: Has the suspect threatened or attempted suicide?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	***Bail
16. Strangling or Choking: Has the suspect ever strangled or choked the complainant?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Stalking: Has the suspect displayed jealous behaviours, stalked or harassed the complainant?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Other Information: Any other relevant information (eg. is the complainant socially/ physically isolated; unwilling to leave the home; cultural barriers inhibit complainant?)	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

Domestic Violence Courts

- Calgary – HomeFront
- Edmonton
- Lethbridge
- Medicine Hat
- Red Deer
- Fort McMurray
- Airdrie
- Grande Prairie



Provincial Family Violence Treatment Framework

- 3-year funding to enhance specialized assessment and treatment services in domestic violence courts



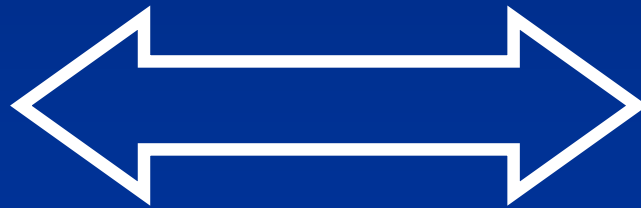
Results:

Recidivism rate down 2/3

Baseline Sample

HomeFront Sample

34%



12%

HOMEFRONT

STOP IT WHERE IT STARTS

Province Wide Domestic Violence Education

- Police – RCMP, Municipal, First Nations, Military
- Crown
- Victim Services
- Crisis and Shelter
- Children's Services
- Social Workers
- Probation
- Health and Mental Health
- Communities and Agencies
- Colleges
- Universities
- Law School
- Family Law and Mediation Lawyers



JUDGES

- Queen's Bench
- Provincial Court
- Justices of the Peace



Slain mom lived in fear

Trials set for the man accused of murdering a woman who lived in fear of him

SLAIN CALGARIAN Christine Morehouse, 38, was found dead in her home on Tuesday, April 1, 2003. She was killed by her ex-husband, Ira Morehouse, 45, who is charged with first-degree murder. The woman was found with a scratch on her neck and a pool of blood around her head. The death, conducted elaborate surveillance of her movements.

But before the frightened woman could make her getaway, Ira Morehouse went to the home she shared with her son and strangled her with his bare hand.

Prosecutor Jonathan Hak said he believed the man was obsessed with his ex-wife and that he was planning to kill her.

"Chris was a very nice woman, but she was always afraid of him," Hak said. "She was always afraid of him."

"She was always afraid of him," Hak said. "She was always afraid of him."

deceased said she confided her plans to flee her ex-husband.

"She was thinking that she was going to leave work to move and



CHRISTINE MOREHOUSE



IRA MOREHOUSE

Examiners can't examine the body.

from

Stalking is a precursor to DOMESTIC HOMICIDE

"Furniture was tipped over, there was blood all around the kitchen ... and in the hallway."

— Jonathan Hak, prosecutor

Current Research

DEATHS ARE PREVENTABLE!

“Many domestic homicides may have been prevented if the criminal justice system had better engaged the victim in risk assessment and safety planning.”

DVDRC, Ontario



Domestic Violence Death Review Committee: Case Reviews of Domestic Violence Deaths, 2002 – Ontario

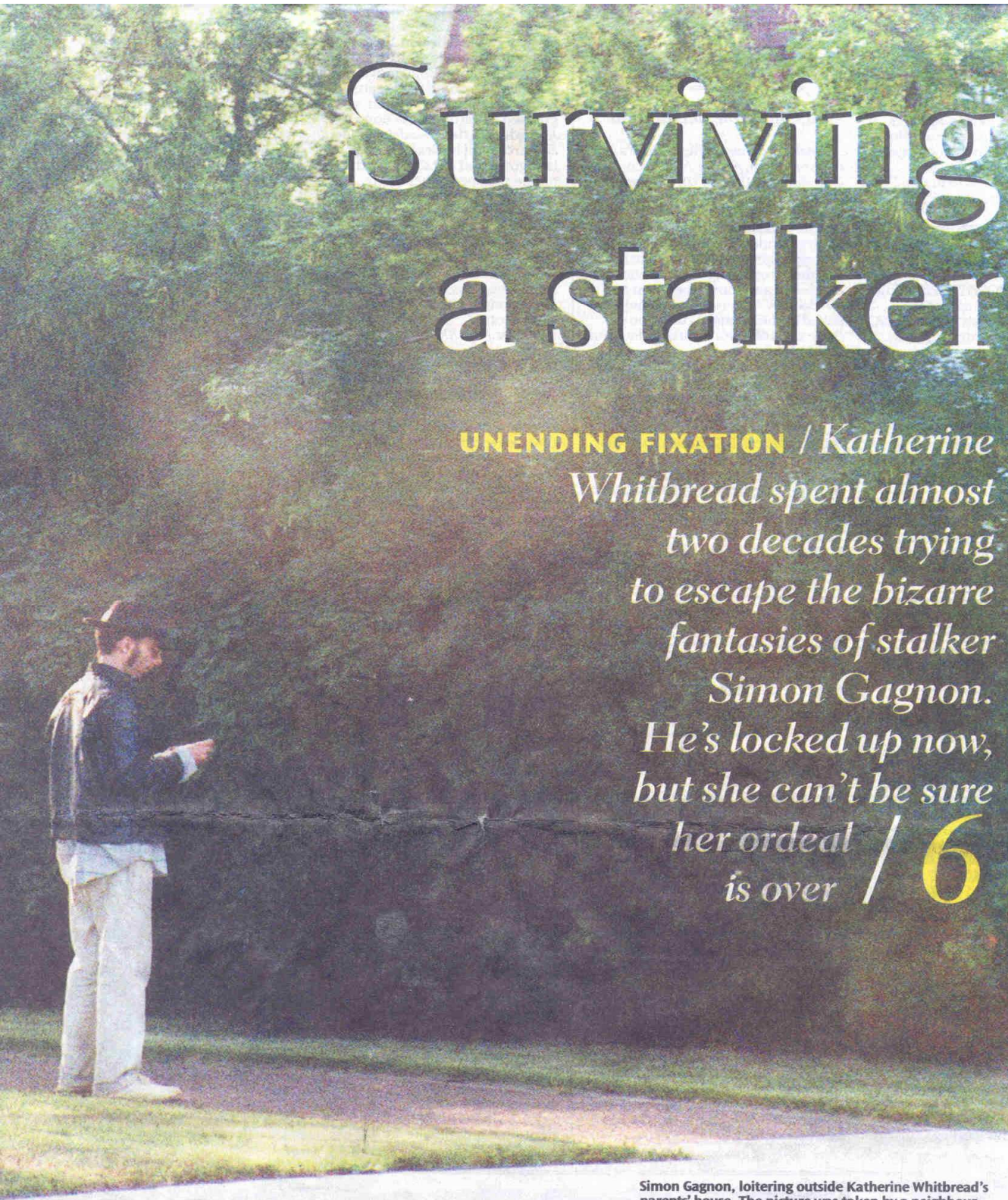
Risk Factors for Homicide:

- History of domestic violence
- Separation
- Escalation
- Threats to kill victim
- Threats with a weapon
- Threats/attempts suicide
- Obsessive behaviour (stalking)
- Access to firearms
- Excessive alcohol/drug use
- Depression (mental health)
- Isolation of Victim
- Forced sexual acts or assaults during sex
- Child custody or access dispute
- New partner in victim's life
- Perpetrator unemployed
- Presence of stepchildren in home
- Common-law relationship
- Hostage-taking
- Destruction of victim's property
- Violence against family pets
- Extreme minimization or denial of spousal assault history
- Controls victim's daily activities
- Assaulted victim while pregnant
- Chokes victim
- Youth of couple
- Witnessed domestic violence as child



Surviving a stalker

UNENDING FIXATION / *Katherine Whitbread spent almost two decades trying to escape the bizarre fantasies of stalker Simon Gagnon. He's locked up now, but she can't be sure her ordeal* / **6**
is over



Simon Gagnon, loitering outside Katherine Whitbread's parents' house. The picture was taken by a neighbour

Gagnon – Whitbread

1983-2001

→ **Fall 1983**

[with permission]

- Meet in High School
- Invited to gathering
- Paints Portrait

→ **Spring 1984**

Knocking on door, waiting

Walking in, uninvited



→ **Summer 1984**

- Afternoon nap

→ **1984 - 1985**

- Rumors of intimate relationship
- Surveillance of activities

→ **Summer 1986**

- Victim moves to Greece

→ **Fall 1986**

- Pens lengthy letter (MAILED 86-11-07)

"I'm living to see you..."



→ **Fall 1986**

- **Phoning and asking around**

→ **January 1987**

- **Buys one-way ticket to Greece**
- **Taxi (\$300. For 500 km.)**
- **Phone calls & knows address**
- **Arrives at door (embrace, proposal)**
- **Follows onto airplane**
- **Arrival at home, calls begin**
- **Phone calls of congratulations**



→ March 1987

- Telegram to parent's house

"Coming to Edmonton to see his girl..."

→ April 1987

- At house with suitcase
- Police attend and carry off

→ Spring 1987

- Telling people that married
- Spends night in graveyard
- Phoning parent's house
- Calls victim at her apartment (police)
- Temporary R.O. obtained
- Attends apartment, victim away

→ **Breach – Court – “No Contact”**

→ **Summer 1987**

– Attends at house, w. beer

→ **November 1987**

– Five page love letter

“The things you say to me in my head are wonderful and give me happiness I never dreamed possible...”

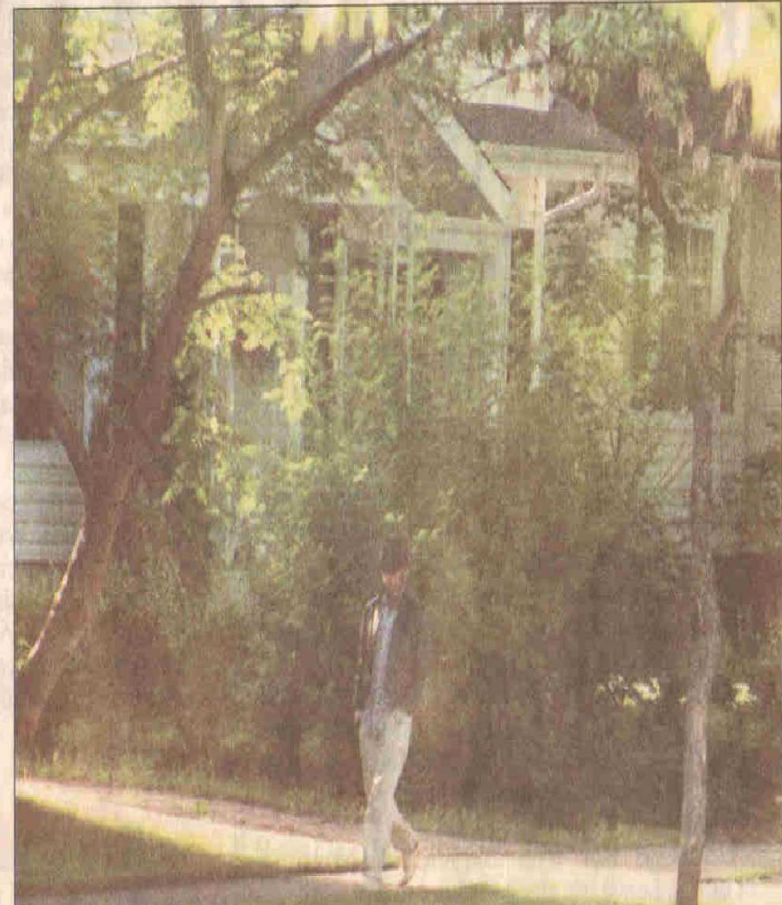
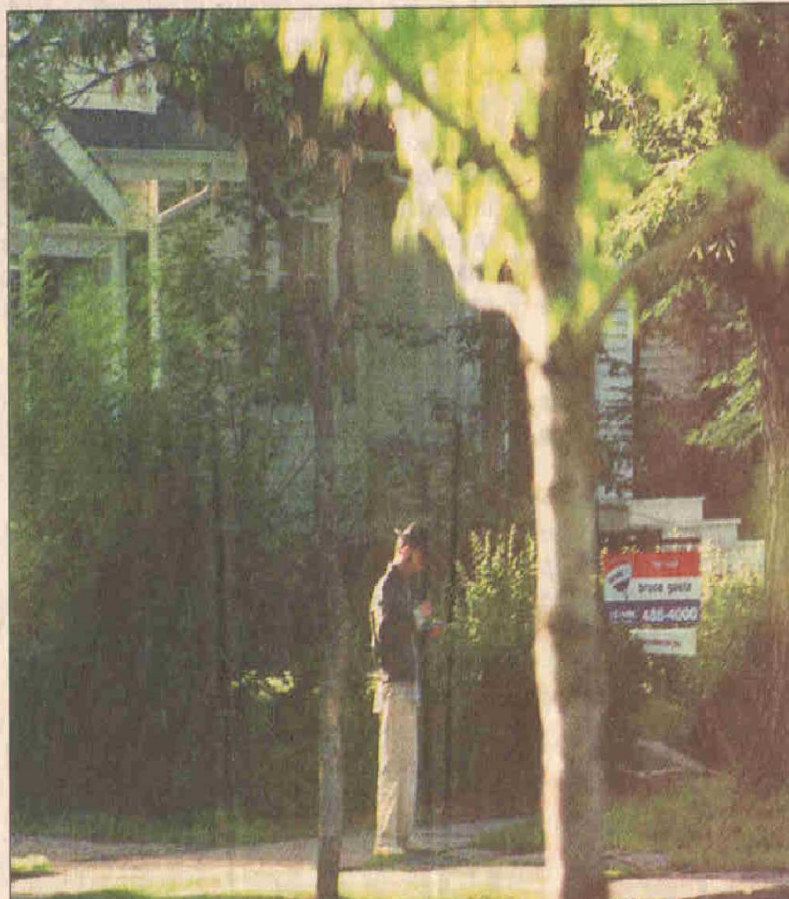
→ **Christmas 1987**

– Gifts at parent's house

(Black Candles, Othello, Witch story)



Simon's obsession, Katherine's ordeal



→ **May 1988**

– Love letter from Ontario

→ **June 1988**

– Moves back to Edmonton

→ **Summer 1988**

– Shows up at apartment, w. gift

→ **August 1988**

– Card left at parent's house

*"Dear Katherine, Happy 6th
Wedding Anniversary... Love Simon"*

→ **Christmas 1988**

– Attends at parents with gifts,
inc. baby

– **Police attend and take away**

→ **Spring 1989**

- Library book and Detective Fantasy
- Frequent surveillance begins

→ **1992**

- Telling people that married & child

→ **1994**

- Attends house “to see baby”

→ **1995**

- Victim pregnant and learns of change in Health care



July 20, 2001

Arrest & Investigation

- Interview: “says wife and family”
- AHC card: “Katherine E. Gagnon”
- Christmas gifts every year, since 1987
- Frequent surveillance observed by parents and neighbors
- **12 hours in presence of victim**



August 2001

- Search Warrant Executed
- Photos of Katherine on walls
- 20 Binders of writings seized



June 26/92.

Author's Pre-disposition.

I wrote this book on a bet.
Back at the time I was keeping
my office in the Jasper Block downtown
Edmonton. The Cuts there were a
Rowdy bunch, and I can remember
them all. This is not a work
of Fiction, rather it is a true
Story, like on Dragnet, the names have
been changed, some characters are
composites, But the story was the
actual tale of what occurred the
times we were getting married.

Dedicated to Sherrie Ray Vaughan
and with love to my wonderful wife
Katherine.

For the Baby.

woop. I love you.

Pop is core in band.
Na.

Yes.

Wedding

Trash But.

mumy and daughter.

Yes, I want to propose.

lets Now Begin the true Part Before.

Dash much till I realize the info-Brea

I love you) Love you too.



- 2 Chgs of Crim. Harassment
-
- **Nov 2001** – “Fit for Trial”
- **Mar 2002** – 2 day trial
- **Jan 2003** – “ NCR ”
- Alberta Hospital
- Yearly review

Diagnosis:

- schizophrenia
- paranoia
- erotomania

EROTOMANIC STALKER

- ❑ BELIEVES (FALSELY) THEY ARE “LOVED” BY THE VICTIM
- ❑ OBJECT OF AFFECTION IS USUALLY OF HIGHER STATUS
- ❑ CAN BE A STRANGER
- ❑ RESOURCEFUL, MULTIPLE CONTACT BEHAVIOURS
- ❑ MOST OFTEN FEMALE SUSPECT
- ❑ DELUSIONAL DISORDER (DSM IV) (IDEALIZED ROMANTIC LOVE & SPIRITUAL UNION)
- ❑ NOT INCLINED TO HURT VICTIM
- ❑ THIRD PARTY INDIVIDUALS MORE AT RISK (EG. WIFE, NEW GIRLFRIEND – VIEWED AS OBSTACLES)
- ❑ LONG TERM DURATION

Simon Gagnon – Katherine Whitbread

September 1983 to July 2001

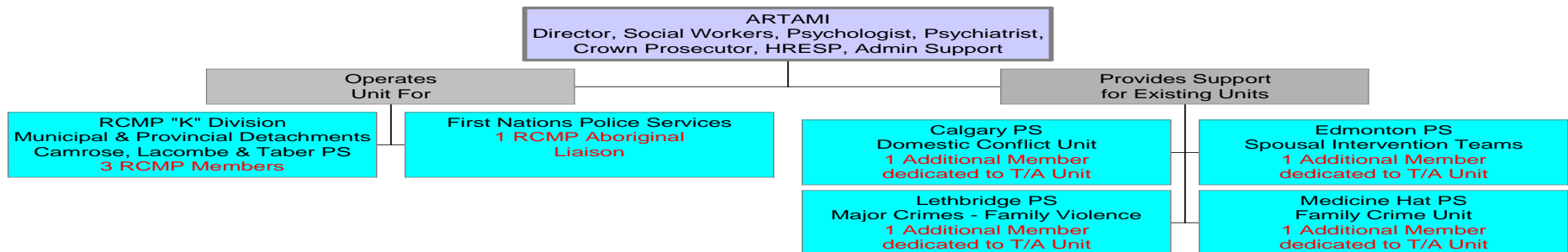
(VICTIM IMPACT)

“His behaviour didn't just make me afraid of him... What it really did was make me afraid of everything... It made me afraid of the police, it made me afraid of my parents, it made me afraid of myself... It made me believe that the world was a crappy, shitty place where no one would help you, no matter how good of person you are... If some loser wanted to kill you, steal your child, ruin your life, he could go right ahead, that was fine with everybody... It made me believe that all my dreams were impossible...”

Alberta Relationship Threat Assessment and Management Initiative (ARTAMI)



ARTAMI Regionalized Model



Information Flow



The Multi-Agency Team would consist of: 1 Provincial Program Director; 4 RCMP Officers (1 Aboriginal); 4 Municipal Police Officers in each of the Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge Regional and Medicine Hat Police Services; 2 Social Workers; 1 Crown Prosecutor; Psychologist, Psychiatrist); 2 positions dedicated to supporting safety to clients at highest risk; and 1 Administrative Support Staff.

ARTAMI

- Threat Assessments;
- Training and Expertise;
- Court Expert Evidence;
- Coordination of Domestic Violence Protocols;
- Safety Planning for Victims;
- Mitigation Strategies;
- Long Term/Dangerous Offender
- Potential for Death Review Capacity??



ARTAMI

☐ Multi-discipline team:

- ☐ Provincial Program Director
- ☐ 4 RCMP Officers
- ☐ 4 Municipal Police Officers
- ☐ Crown Prosecutor
- ☐ Family Lawyer
- ☐ Consulting Psychologist/Psychiatrist
- ☐ Victim Safety Specialist
- ☐ Administrative Support



Ontario's Threat Assessment Unit

- ❑ OPP only Threat Assessment Unit in Canada.
- ❑ Entirely police based
- ❑ No fatalities in 11 years from OPP TAU



WHY?

- Reduce violence and deaths
- Integrated response to stalking
- Stop the harassment (psychological harm)



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JOSIF

JAN. 26, 1958
SEPT. 28, 2003

BLAGICA

AUG. 8, 1963
SEPT. 28, 2003

ALEX

JUNE 20, 2000
SEPT. 28, 2003

Gone but not forgotten

