



CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF CHILD ABUSE



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About the Organization

The Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse was formed in October 1985 in response to a growing need for a coordinated, professional approach to child abuse investigations. The Board of Directors of the non-profit Society is made up of police officers, child welfare workers, Alberta Justice counsel, and treatment specialists. The Society was originally known as The Calgary Society for the Investigation of Child Sexual Abuse, but the name was changed in 1994 to reflect the growing mandate of the Society.

The Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse is committed to supporting professionals, communities, victims and witnesses involved in the investigation of child abuse by:

- developing and delivering educational products and services
- promoting a coordinated, interdisciplinary approach to child abuse investigations
- identifying and responding to key issues and concerns of child abuse investigators
- advocating for excellence and professionalism in the investigation of child abuse
- promoting the well-being of children and families going through the investigative process
- providing professional training
- researching child abuse issues

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

1985-1989

For the Kids - Investigating Child Sexual Abuse

For the Kids is a comprehensive training program developed for police, child protection workers and other involved professionals. It features a one hour video narrated by Peter Gzowski, Instructor's Guide and an Investigator's Manual for use in the field. This professional training program has become the mainstay of sexual abuse investigation training for RCMP, metropolitan police departments, and child welfare departments across Canada. *For the Kids* has been translated into three languages and is in use in eight countries.

1989-present

Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Child Welfare Sexual Abuse Investigator Training

This three day joint RCMP/Child Welfare sexual abuse training program continues to be offered on an ongoing basis throughout the province of Alberta.

1992-present

The Child Witness Court Preparation Program

This program prepares over 100 Calgary and area child victims and witnesses per year to testify effectively in court. Children are prepared primarily using a group format of service delivery, although

individual preparation is available when appropriate. The program receives its core funding from Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security which is supplemented by contributions from corporations and foundations.

1994-present

You're Not Alone: Child Witness Court Preparation Program

This program consists of a stand alone video and comic book to orient a child to the court process. It also includes a video, curriculum, and administrative guide to enable professionals to start up and maintain a child witness court preparation program.

1997-present

The Child Abuse Response Certificate Program

This child abuse training program was developed to respond to the needs of community professionals who may encounter abused children in their roles at work. It is a 30 hour program consisting of five core workshops and is offered on an annual basis.

2006

The Review/Evaluation of The Calgary Child Witness Court Preparation Program

This report reviews 12 years of data collected by the Child Witness Court Preparation Program on child witnesses, offenders, and the response of the Criminal Justice System. The quantitative and qualitative research was conducted by RESOLVE Alberta (University of Calgary), CSICA, and Mount Royal College (Justice Studies). The qualitative component consists of 40 stakeholder interviews completed to assess the community's satisfaction with the program. The final report was released in June 2006 and is available at www.csicainfo.com.

2002-present

Research Study on Premenstrual Syndrome and the Impact on Women's Parenting.

RESOLVE Alberta (University of Calgary) has partnered with the Society to conduct this ongoing research study. The purpose of this research is to explore connections between the condition of severe premenstrual syndrome (PMS), mothers' difficulties with parenting and potential child abuse.

May 2006

International Conference in Calgary, Alberta entitled "Joining Together: Conducting the Forensic Investigation of the Young Abused Child".

This successful child abuse conference, with keynote speaker Stephen Lewis, was attended by 300 delegates from Canada, the United States and Singapore with overwhelmingly positive evaluations.

2007-present

Online Web-based Child Witness Court Preparation

To accommodate children who live in rural areas or who are not able to attend formalized preparation programs, court preparation services are now available for children to explore at www.childcourtprep.com and personal individual online preparation can be arranged no matter where you live by emailing csica@shaw.ca.

2007-present

Forensic Online Child Abuse Training for Child Abuse Investigators/Online Child Abuse Training for Community Professionals

Forensic training/child abuse training is offered using a variety of teaching methods including synchronous interactive software (Elluminate Live), Breeze lecture presentations, readings, discussion forums and classes.