

POAO is pleased to be presenting at the Canadian Domestic Violence Conference, June 2009 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

“The intent of this Conference is to showcase the last thirty years of Canadian innovation and research on effectively responding to domestic violence. While the commitment to end violence in intimate relationships has remained, the last thirty years has brought about many changes in the field as it grapples with the complexity of this issue. Domestic violence is influenced by a variety of issues including trauma, attachment, sexism, racism, class, sexual orientation and so forth. The complexity of domestic violence is reflected in the array of different, innovative and creative responses that have developed to address it.

The Conference is designed to create a dialogue among various approaches to interventions with men and women. These approaches include conducting group work as well as having conversations with individuals, couples, and families. These approaches have been influenced by various theoretical frameworks such as feminism, attachment theory, cognitive behavioural theory, post-modernism, psychoanalysis, queer theory and so forth. These interventions have developed out of various locations: community organizations, institutional settings, academic settings, mental health clinics, private practice, correctional offices, shelters and addiction programs”.

POAO President Erin Olesen-Schinke and Vice-President Kimberley Ridgers will be delivering a 90 minute workshop in partnership with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services entitled **Lessons Learned: Probation Officers in Partnership with Victims**. In 2006 the Probation Officers Association of Ontario (POAO) published a Research Project focusing on victims’ issues. The project included data collection and participation from criminal justice professionals from diverse regions across the province of Ontario. This workshop will identify the challenges to implementing victim-based recommendations within the judicial system and highlight means by which POAO has worked with justice partners to make the recommendations a reality and address existing barriers