



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release—Feb. 6, 2006

Internationally recognized experts in Parenting after Violence and Abuse, Alyce LaViolette and Dr. Oliver Williams to present to local professionals

CALGARY –Calgary Counselling Centre is hosting a professional workshop featuring renowned domestic violence experts, Alyce LaViolette, MSc. and Dr. Oliver Williams on Feb. 9 and 10, 2007 at the Best Western Village Park Inn. Working together, LaViolette and Williams will introduce participants to the experience of parents impacted by domestic violence and some of the dynamics present during the early stages of one's work with families where violence is a concern.

“This is a great opportunity for clinicians in our community to improve their treatment of the complex issues that clients present as a result of experiencing violence and abuse,” says Calgary Counselling Centre C.E.O., Robbie Babins-Wagner. “Parenting after violence is an especially tough situation.”

Domestic abuse infiltrates every facet of our community. Calgary Counselling Centre is steadfast in its commitment to providing a coordinated response to domestic abuse and its affects for the whole family.

The Centre offers extensive programs in family violence counselling. Each family or individual receives a customized treatment plan based on situation. Customized treatment is just one of the many reasons the Centre is recognized as a leader in North America for family violence research and programming.

Conference participants will have opportunity to learn and practice assessment tools and strategies and will explore interventions that may be utilized when working with families. The diversity that exists within contemporary families will be considered throughout the workshop and case studies will be discussed and knowledge applied as attendees work together in small groups.

Recorded material will help the principles presented come alive as people tell their stories and work with families impacted by family violence is demonstrated. This workshop will conclude with a presentation and discussion on how one can prepare for witnessing in court.

Calgary Counselling Centre is a non-profit organization committed to providing compassionate, professional and affordable counselling services to Calgarians. Offering service in 23 first languages, the Centre is a recognized leader in the treatment of family violence, depression, self esteem and eating disorders. Through its ongoing research and education programs, Calgary Counselling Centre strives to meet the changing needs of our community. The Centre's fee structure is based on income - no one is turned away for an inability to pay.

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Alyce LaViolette, MSc. has worked with battered women since 1978. In 1979, she founded Alternatives to Violence, one of the first programs in the U.S. for spouse abusers. She has developed training programs for the Los Angeles County and State Probation Departments, Los Angeles and Orange County Departments of Children and Family Services and many other groups. Ms. Violette is a much requested conference and keynote speaker and has authored and co-authored many articles and books, including: *It could Happen to Anyone—Why Battered Women Stay* ; *Battered Women, Power and Family Systems Therapy* ; *For Our Children* , a parenting curriculum; as well as editing *The CABIP Toolbox* , a guide for facilitators. Alyce is a founding member and Co-Chair of the California Association of Batterer's Intervention Programs.

Dr. Oliver Williams is the Executive Director of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, and a Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul. As a practitioner, he has worked in the field of domestic violence for more than 25 years and has provided individual, couple and family counselling. He has been a child welfare worker, worked in women's shelters, has developed curricula for batterers intervention programs and facilitated counselling groups in these programs. Dr. Williams' extensive research and publications have centered on creating effective service delivery strategies to reduce violent behaviors. In 2005 he won the International media award winner “Telly Award” for the video *Safe Return Initiative: Prisoner Re-entry and Domestic Violence*.

For more information, or to arrange interviews with either presenter on Feb. 9 or 10, please contact:

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