

**BE MORE THAN A BYSTANDER:
BREAK THE SILENCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

ADVISORY GROUP BACKGROUNDER

Overseeing and steering the "Be More Than a Bystander" initiative is an advisory group of women who are experts in the area of violence against women who bring extensive knowledge, commitment and years of experience to their work in this initiative.



Janice Abbott

Janice Abbott has been the CEO of Atira Women's Resource Society since 1992 and the CEO of Atira Property Management Inc. since its launch in October of 2002. Since assuming the role of CEO, Abbott has lead the Society through its growth from a single transition house located in South Surrey with a staff of seven and an annual budget of \$180,000, to a large multi-service agency with two, for-profit subsidiaries, a development arm, more than 400 staff, an annual operating budget in excess of \$18 million and five capital projects with a total budget of just under \$100 million.



Adrienne Chan

Adrienne Chan has a doctorate from the University of Kent at Canterbury, England, in the area of adult and continuing education, with a focus on Diversity and Institutional Change. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Social Work degree. For twenty years, Adrienne has worked as a trainer, instructor, researcher, community and adult educator actively in the area of diversity, equity, cross cultural understanding and harassment.



Mavis Erickson

Mavis Erickson is a Barrister and Solicitor with the law firm of Wagstaffe, Gosh and Co in Prince George, British Columbia. She has a Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of British Columbia. She also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of British Columbia. From 1997 to 2003 she served as the Elected Tribal Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council. Mavis Erickson is a Nadleh Whut'en band member although she is a Nak'azdii citizen from her late parents community of Nak'azdii near Fort St James. While practicing law in Prince George, she also teaches in the First Nations Studies Department at the University of Northern British Columbia.



Meghan Gardiner

Meghan is a Vancouver based actor and playwright, most notably known for her one-woman show, Dissolve. She has toured the continent with this entertaining piece of theatre, providing awareness on drug-facilitated sexual assault. Having performed the show over 450 times, Meghan was honoured to be a guest speaker at the 2009 International Conference on Sex Crimes in Toronto. Meghan received government funding to create a documentary film on drug facilitated sexual assault inspired by Dissolve, (and of the same name) which is currently being distributed internationally and garnered her a screenwriting nomination at the Leo Awards in 2010.



Ninu Kang

Ninu Kang is the Director of Family Programs at MOSAIC. She has over 20 years of experience in the Settlement and Anti-Violence field. Ninu's training in Counselling Psychology, interest in cultural adaptation of mainstream counselling models, as well as her work in the field of violence against women as an activist, motivated her to take a lead in providing support services to immigrant women who experience violence and facilitate treatment programs for immigrant men who use violence from a culturally specific perspective.



Arvinder Lalli

Arvinder Lalli was born and raised in Kelowna, British Columbia. She graduated from the University of British Columbia Okanagan in 2009 with a Bachelor of Social Work Degree. For the past three years Arvinder has worked at the Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society as a Women's Outreach Counsellor where she provides outreach counselling, education, and practical assistance to women affected by domestic and/or sexualized violence. In addition to Outreach, Arvinder facilitates the Girl Power program at various middle schools throughout the Central Okanagan.



Cherlyn McKay

Cherlyn's passion and aspiration for a world that could be safe for girls and women started to take formation during her first degree in Women's Studies and Sociology. She spent 4 years learning about how accidental social inequality is and, more specifically, that the compromised and lower status of women in Canadian society was inextricably linked to violence against women. Cherlyn has put theory into practice by becoming a Victim Services Worker at a sexual assault centre in Vancouver and has been involved in public education that engaged youth about how violence against girls and women negatively impacts boys, men and society at large.



Shari Ulrich

A two time Juno Award winner, and inductee in the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame, Shari Ulrich was first heard in the early 70's with the Pied Pumkin playing fiddle, mandolin, dulcimer, flute & sax. Shari has always been outspoken about her own experience as a victim of violence and is very supportive of the Restorative Justice movement and efforts to increase public awareness and education about violence against women. As Shari puts it, "The more we can foster a culture where violence against women is socially and culturally utterly unacceptable – where any and all violence against others is unacceptable, the more we can reduce its prevalence in our society."



Kristi White

Kristi White is the Coordinator of the Family Violence Resource Centre at Native Education College (NEC). She is a member of the Heiltsuk First Nation. Kristi was blessed as a young girl to have received guidance, traditional and cultural teachings from her Elders and continues to pass on the knowledge and support those she serves. She has lived in the trenches of social work, in the world of negotiation and governance and is a facilitator, advocate, strategic planner, and counsellor. Kristi successfully completed her Bachelor of Social Work in 2001 and has over 15 years experience in child welfare both on and off reserve. Today, she continues to serve Aboriginal residents of the lower mainland, offering counselling services to children and youth, adults and elders who have or are experiencing sexual abuse and/or issues with relationship violence.

Photo not available

Heather Whiteford

Heather Whiteford, MSW, RSW is a social worker currently working in a variety of settings. She is employed by Family Services of Greater Vancouver, a not-for profit agency, as Manager of the Victim Services Programs. She teaches at UBC School of Social Work as a sessional instructor. She maintains a private counselling practice, part of which involves working with a local First Nations community. She has been a founding member of two not-for-profit agencies committed to serving women who have experienced violence. She is interested in how approaches based on knowledge of power dynamics and trauma can help individuals, families and communities heal from the effects of intrafamilial, interpersonal and community violence.

For more information about the Advisory Group including complete biographies and why they feel this initiative is important, go to www.endingviolence.org and click on the link to the **Be More Than a Bystander** program.

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