

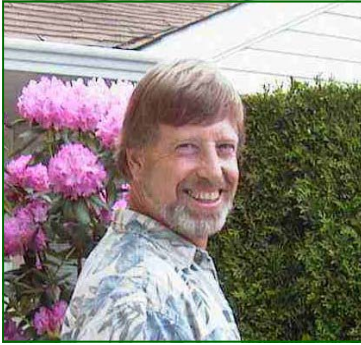
**n m r c**  
NANAIMO MEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE  
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WWW.NANAIMOMEN.COM

# Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre

## 2008 – 2009 Annual Report



FOR MEN  
Helping Families:  
Men, Women and Children



## Executive Directors Annual Report

*Every year brings ups and downs for our organization, and like most non profits our downs are linked directly to sustaining long term funding. This year has been a bit more tumultuous than others, but we are still here and still thriving and making a difference for men, women and families in our community and for some across our province. In all, the year has still been an*

*interesting, challenging and gratifying year for the centre, we have lots to be proud of, even though I know myself and others are feeling that year end burnout, and looking forward to some summer time off to rejuvenate ourselves and return for a busy 2009 – 2010.*

*In early mid December 2008, we once again got our maximum gaming funding, which was just in the nick of time, for this past year was the closest we have come to having to close the centre doors. This year I have spent a lot of my time concentrating on trying to diversify our funding, and in particular focused on the provincial government for long term sustainable funding, as I am concerned that with all our eggs in one basket, we would be left somewhat vulnerable. With the election of our provincial government now concluded, I hope this year will be the year that we succeed in securing sustainable funding. I believe we are close but not quite there yet!*

*In late October 2008, I attended a FIRA (Fatherhood Involvement Research Alliance) Conference in Toronto with Gardner Wiseheart presenting on the "Dad's Make a Difference" program, as well as other programs of the NMRC. It was a pleasure to make three different presentations including a poster which highlighted all our programs and a poster from VIU which detailed one of their research projects which they are partnering with us on.*

*In early November, myself and CM Justice attended the Focus on Fathering Symposium in Victoria. This symposium was put on by the BC Council for Families and was a great benefit in many areas, but especially in the networking with others and sharing our common threads, mainly in the need for support and funding of programs.*

*October/November 2008, I assisted in organizing and developing 5 different presentations to the provincial finance committee. There was a lot of time and energy put into these 5 presentations from NMRC, MARS BC, PCPB, the Victoria Men's Centre and the Tri Cities Men's Resource Centre. I was disappointed that there was no recommendation from the finance committee to support the centre or any other men's or father organizations, programs or resources.*

*Along with our Gaming Grant funds received in December, we also received a grant of \$20,000 from the City of Nanaimo to work with male and transgendered street sex trade workers in Nanaimo. With some research on the topic by Vancouver Island University, and further research by myself, we have concluded that there are only 1-2 such workers in Nanaimo and they are infrequent. Further meetings with City of Nanaimo have led to some alternatives suggestions for the use of the funding in*

dealing with problem of street prostitution. We suggested issues of fatherlessness and the connection to female teenage promiscuity or possibly just addressing the male role in female prostitution. We are waiting to hear their response to these suggestions.

We also applied for funding to continue to support the Family Emergency Services Program in Nanaimo through United Way. Though they did fund part of the program in the first year, and again at a lower rate in the second year, this year we were not successful in obtaining funding supported from them on funds needed for the program, but we are continuing to work at locating new funding to support this important needed service in our community.

Our Parental Alienation Awareness Program in April 2009 was again successful. Between the radio ad on CKNW and the newspaper ads around the province we reached a listening and reading audience of over 1,000,000 people. Also successful with getting the City of Nanaimo to proclaim April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 as Parental Alienation Awareness Day.

We are once again hosting our community event "Fathers Day in the Park" in collaboration with PCBC. Under the organization of John Westwood, 2008's was a great success with the best ever attendance, doubling the previous year, with approximately 500 people participating. This year we have secured Valdy as an entertainer and are expecting our attendance to surpass 1,000 family members, all coming together to celebrate Fathers.

Our Personal Education and Development Workshops, Calming your Anger Program, Dad's Make a Difference Program and work on Community Awareness and Education, including hosting a Provincial All Candidates Forum prior to this years election, have all continued to fill the centre's staff and volunteers time over the year and to be a positive experience for all involved.

Myself and the staff continue to work on a number of items on an ongoing bases, such as: one on one counselling appointments in person or over the phone, workshops, ongoing meetings with Director of Family Maintenance to review our 35 recommendations for change to the FMEP legislation, City Council to support funding and awareness on the issues facing, men, women and children in our community and sustaining additional funding and partnerships to support our workshops, programs and community events. We also support the Board of Directors, with updates, background and preparation of materials for their quarterly meetings. But most of all, we work to support the individuals that come through our doors in need of someone to talk too, someone to listen and someone to assist where possible. All to support making the life of one man, one woman and or one child's life better, one by one, to create a healthier, stronger society for all.

Thank you all for your continued support for and participation in the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre's, mission, vision and dream of helping families, men, women and children.



Theo J. Boere  
Executive Director

## Thank-you to our Staff & Volunteers

### Staff:

**Theo J Boere**

*Executive Director*

**John Westwood**

*Programs and Communications Director*

**Kate Parker**

*Finance Coordinator*

**Kim Howland**

*Administrative Assistant - hired February 2009*

**Jonathon Vandergoes**

*Referral & Resource & Mediation Services  
Program Coordinator*

**CM Justice**

*Dad's Program Coordinator*

Special Thank You to James Latour who was our long time Centre Administrator who left in August 2008 for new horizons.

### Volunteer Counsellors

Ray Smith, Jim Pierce, Nick Fast

### Volunteer Front Desk

Donna Nichols, Linda Derasp, Russ Leger, John Carver, Dave Douglas and our newest volunteer Kevin Munn.



## Our Vision

The Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre is a welcoming, inclusive community in a social landscape where men are honoured as they face the challenges of a shifting culture. We are devoted to developing tools that can be used by all family members to educate for compassion, mutual respect, and the celebration of our common humanity.

## Our Very Special Thanks

NMRC extends sincere thanks to the all our members and all those who have volunteered and support the centre. We also want to grateful acknowledge the contribution of financial support from Coastal Credit Union, City of Nanaimo, Corporation Donations, our NMRC Members and the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Housing and Social Development - Gaming Branch.

## 2008-2009 Board of Directors

**Frank Brown - Chair**

**Steve O'Neill - Secretary / Treasure**

**CM Justice**

**Jim Cossey**

**Jim Richardson**

**Bill Larose**

**Ann Leavitt**

**Mike Sherlock**

**Deb Cossey**

*Special thank you for your continued support, time and passion for the organization.*

**2008 – 2009** was a particularly challenging year financially, yet we have been able to continue all our regular programs, offer our workshops even if it was a few less times, as well as offer a new workshop through obtaining a new partnership, all to support and bring awareness on important challenging issues facing men; therefore effecting families, women and children.

### **Celebrations for 2008-2009**

- ✓ Our "Dads Make a Difference" program continues to stand out as our most amazing and successful program to date. Even with the funding crunch, we continued to run the full program and have over 25 educational presentations throughout the year,
- ✓ Calming Your Anger workshop which takes place over a weekend (2 ½ days) was offered 3 times with attendance from both men and women. Our evaluations from participants continue to support the workshop as beneficial,
- ✓ Taming the Volcano is our newest workshop which was made possible through a partnership with Shore Counselling. This workshop is a 10 week anger management program and participants evaluations comments strongly supported the materials and workshop as a whole,
- ✓ Stirred, Not Shaken was another great weekend workshop on Masculinity by David Hatfield hosted in early May, and we are hoping to repeat an expanded version in the fall of 2009,
- ✓ Soothing the Storm, a women's anger workshop is being hosted at the centre as well in the coming month,
- ✓ Gaming Grant funds are received,
- ✓ Grant from Coastal Credit Union to support update of Dad's Make a Difference Booklet,
- ✓ City of Nanaimo proclaims April 25<sup>th</sup> 2009, Parental Alienation Awareness Day,
- ✓ Over 1,000,000 listeners and readers are reached with Parental Alienation Awareness Campaign,
- ✓ Hosted successful Provincial All Candidates Forum for our community,
- ✓ Over a 1000 hours of One on One free peer counselling and support, over 1000 hours of group support & education, and many more hours in workshops, general support and services.

### **2009 – 2010 is another year of optimism, a year we will focus on:**

- ✓ Obtaining long term sustainable funding for the centre, and grants to support continued growth for our programs and services,
- ✓ Launch updated 'Dad's Makes a Difference Booklets' in fall of 2009,
- ✓ Present a new Workshop that John Westwood and Jonathon Vandergoes are developing called 'Peaceful Divorce' ,
- ✓ Offer workshops in 2009-2010: Calming The Anger, Taming the Volcano, Stirred, Not Shaken (expanded version), FMEP (Family Maintenance Enforcement Program) Workshop and possible other new workshops as available,
- ✓ Continue with our Support Programs, Dad's Make A Difference, Separation and Divorce, Parental Alienation and others if the need arises and possible,
- ✓ Look for new partnerships that help support families in our community from funding to programs and support services,
- ✓ Creating stronger awareness of the issues truly challenging and harming our families; men, women and children, while advocating for positive change both proactive and reactive.

# 2008 –2009 in Review

For ongoing updates and information visit us at: [www.nanaimomen.com](http://www.nanaimomen.com)

## Referral and Resource Centre

Centre continues to provide services for men and their families in Nanaimo. We have seen an increase in calls from outside our direct community, we are now reaching men and families in other cities on Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Northern BC, Eastern BC and across Canada. We stay committed to providing support and programs, to building relationships with other agencies, to ensure that we try to meet the needs of men as the need arises. 2008 - 2009 has seen the Centre continue to provide services and support in the following ways:

- Support groups
- Individual counsellors
  - In person counselling
  - Phone counselling
  - Email Support
- Personal Education and Development Workshops
- Written and audio resources
- Research Projects
- University Liaisons
- Referrals to other services and resources within our local community and around the Province

## Family Crisis Support Services

### **Shelter:**

This program provides support for men who are in crisis and need to leave their domestic situation because of violence or the potential for violence committed by or against them.

### **Child Visitation:**

Assistance with supervised access costs, for men and women who want to visit their children and require a neutral place and someone to assist in assuring visit is peaceful. This also includes assistance in transportation between homes for children on visits.

## F.M.E.P Support

We continue to have trained volunteers to provide feedback on F.M.E.P. matters via phone, email or in person. To support better awareness and understanding of F.M.E.P. system. Available to both men and women who need help with F.M.E.P claims.

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2008-2009

### **Personal Education and Development Workshops:**

- Dads Make a Difference
- Calming Your Anger
- Taming The Volcano
- Stirred, Not Shaken

### **Community Events and Awareness:**

- Newspaper and Radio Talk shows on pertinent issues
- Parental Alienation - Open House
- Parental Alienation Awareness Campaign
- Provincial All Candidates Forum
- Fathers Day in the Park

**City of Nanaimo  
Proclaims April 25th, 2009  
Parental Alienation  
Awareness Day**

## Research Project & University Liaison

We are continuing with the work and partnership with Psychology Department at VIU researching separated & divorced men about the effects of their situations, issues surrounding separation & divorce including depression, alienation, suicide, financial stress, recovery & other pertinent issues.

We also are continuing our partnership with Fatherhood Involvement Research Alliance at University of Guelph Ontario & University of BC to do research on separated and divorced fathers.

## DNA Testing

The Centre assists with DNA testing this last year and continues to offer this service through Orchid Cellmark.



## Support Groups

### **Dad's Make A Difference!**

The group continues to meet every Thursday starts with a dinner, hosts educational speakers, provides resources and information all in the focus of supporting dad's important role in their children's lives. The program success shows in the numbers of dads who have taken part from one visit to over 90 visits attending. They also support one on one mentorship where possible.

### **Divorce and Separation Support**

The group meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month to support men with information, negotiation skills, family court processes, advocacy, internet access for legal research and addition resources as identified.

### **LGBTQ Support Program**

The centre continues to look for ways to support our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and questioning community.

### **Parental Alienation Support Group**

This group meets last Friday of the month for men and women who are impacted by Parental Alienation. The group of peers helping peers, sharing of resources and information, networking with others to support individuals who are being alienated from their children or grandchildren.

**NMRC** continues to be committed to researching and providing support to victims of family violence whether the victim is male or female. By bringing education & support to all involved, we can bring healing and hope for men, women and children in our community and province.