

April 17, 2012

Dear Colleague:

We are very excited to be contacting you about a new training initiative. The Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) is extending the training initially offered to Family Court Support Workers across the province to others doing similar work to support survivors of domestic violence through the family court process.

This new training is being offered by Luke's Place Support and Resource Centre for Women and Children, working in collaboration with our partners: Springtide Resources, the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic and the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses.

There will be two training sessions, each two days long \*see below for training agenda topics. Participants will also be given access to the online discussion forum for the next two years. If you are interested in training please complete the attached registration form.

Trainings will take place in late May and mid June. Dates and locations will be determined once we are able to assess interest in the trainings.

There is a \$50 registration fee for the training. Lunch and beverages will be provided. Agencies are responsible for covering the travel and accommodation costs for their staff to attend.

We anticipate that demand will exceed the number of spaces available, so we encourage you to submit the attached registration form soon if you are interested.

We have extended the deadline for applications to **Wednesday April 25, 2012**, after which we will select appropriate candidates for the training based criteria set by the Ministry. \*\*see below

We will contact you by **Monday April 30** to let you know whether your application was accepted and to provide you with further information about the training session.

Luke's Place Support and Resource Centre for Women and Children and Springtide Resources is also pleased to announce the launch of a **new online resource** for those supporting survivors of family violence through the family court process in Ontario.

Developed by Luke's Place, **Resources for Family Court Advocates** contains information about:

- The dynamics of woman abuse, in particular post-separation violence
- Safety planning
- An overview of family court process
- Common legal issues
- Challenges faced by survivors of family violence in the family court process

- Criminal court and its relationship with family court
- How to find and work with a lawyer

**Resources for Family Court Advocates** is hosted by Springtide Resources. You can access the material at: <http://learning.springtideresources.org/> under the “Law and Violence Against Women” category. You will need to create an account with Springtide’s learning website. Anyone who registers with this online resource space will occasionally receive emails from Luke’s Place with news about changes to the law or legal resources.

We look forward to hearing from you and to having you join us in this training and encourage you to visit our new online resources!

*Carol Barkwell*

Carol Barkwell, Luke’s Place

\*Training Agenda Topics

1. Introduction to Website and Resources
2. Family Law Overview
3. Criminal Law Overview
4. Post-Separation Violence Against Women
5. Violence Against Women and Family Court
6. Family Court Process
7. Custody and Access
8. Financial Issues
9. Safety Issues
10. Lawyers and Legal Aid

\*\* Ministry criteria includes:

Workers who provide support to victims of domestic violence who are involved in the family court process.

Workers must be associated with community organizations that serve victims of domestic violence. Workers who have attended in-person training provided by Luke’s

Place through the Family Court Support Worker Program will not be eligible to attend the additional training.

Priority to attend this training will be given to, in order:

1. Workers in positions dedicated full-time to providing support to victims of domestic violence involved in the family court process.
2. Workers who spend 50% or more of their time providing support to victims of domestic violence involved in the family court process.

If necessary, to ensure a broad representation of organizations that provide support to victims of domestic violence who are involved in the family court process, attendance may be limited to one representative per organization and priority may be given to organizations that do not have positions funded by the Family Court Support Worker program.

Consideration will also be given to the geographic location of workers to ensure equitable access to the training to workers across the province.