Annual Report 2011-12

Learning to End Abuse

Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children

“The Centre is committed to the development and application of knowledge on the prevention of violence against women and children through the promotion of innovation, collaborative relationships, and equality.” Established 1992

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Our 21st year of operation featured a number of activities and projects that continue to position the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children (CREVAWC) as a leader in areas related to education and research on violence against women and children. We were very excited to launch a new Learning Network funded by the Ontario government. Dr. Linda Baker joined our Centre as our new Learning Director to guide this innovative development. The Learning Network will increase the effectiveness and reach of public education and professional training materials developed to address violence against women. The roots of the Learning Network are based in the work of the Domestic Violence Advisory Council (DVAC). The mandate includes the continuum of violence against women, including sexual and domestic violence, sexual harassment and stalking, and the effects of exposure to domestic violence on children. The Learning Network enhances our many partnerships across the province. All our efforts remain focused on the same vision: a commitment to the development and application of knowledge on the prevention of violence against women and children through the promotion of innovation, collaborative relationships, and equality. This annual report highlights our efforts in 2011-2012 as reflected in various activities, grants and publications. We acknowledge the support of our partners, management committee, advisory committee, research associates, funders and our extended family in the Faculty of Education. As Centre Directors we appreciate the generous support of Western University that has made our Centre sustainable and a model for similar centres around the world.

Peter Jaffe Academic Director & Barb MacQuarrie Community Director

# Highlights of 2012-2013

* 8 new grants representing an investment of $1,931,819.00
* 6 provincial conferences that brought academics and professionals from multiple disciplines and systems to address sexual violence, media violence, children exposed to domestic violence, and workplace violence
* 9 community forums for Western faculty, students and community agencies
* 42 presentations in other communities
* 19 television, radio and newspaper interviews
* engagement of over 800 undergraduate students and 25 graduate students from Education and Health Sciences on emerging issues in research and practice on violence against women & children

# STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS

For the Year Ended: April 30, 2012

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Revenues: | |
| Transfer from UWO | 55,000 |
| Donations, Gifts | 200 |
| Income From Grants, Sponsors, Conference Registration | 182,747 |
| Recoveries - Salaries & Expenses | 215,738 |
| TOTAL REVENUES: | 453,685 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Expenses: | |
| Salaries and benefits | 235,046 |
| Consulting Services | 13,471 |
| Travel | 21,434 |
| Supplies | 48,536 |
| Off Campus Facilities Rental | 1,373 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES: | 319,860 |

NET SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD 133,826

# Research Projects and Initiatives Funded in 2011-2012

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Awarded |
| SSHRC Public outreach grant: Domestic violence risk assessment and management in the workplace conference. | $ 23,127 |
| Ontario Women’s Directorate: Sexual Violence Forum. | $ 275,000 |
| Department of Justice Canada: Knowledge exchange on safety planning, risk assessment and risk management for victims of crime. | $ 147,298 |
| New Horizons for Seniors Program: It’s not right! Changing social norms for bystanders of abuse of older adults. | $ 575,000 |
| Ontario Women’s Directorate: Violence against Women Learning Network. | $ 850,000 |
| CIHR Meetings, Planning, and Dissemination Grant: Violence in the Lives of Muslim Girls and Women: Creating a Safe Space for Dialogue, Reflection, and Research. | $ 23,894 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SUB-GRANTS | |
| Canadian Women’s Foundation. Building the field of teen healthy relationship and violence prevention programs. | $ 20,000 |
| Centre for Addiction and Metal Health. “The Fourth R” Promoting youth well-being through healthy relationships. | $ 17,500 |

# Faculty and Staff

Peter Jaffe, Academic Director   
Barb MacQuarrie, Community Director  
 Linda Baker, Learning Director (effective November 2011)   
Helene Berman, Research Scholar  
 Anna-Lee Straatman, Manager  
 Dalma Merino, Administrative Assistant (part-time ending October 2011)   
Marcie Campbell, Research Associate  
 Joy Lang, Community Liaison Officer  
 Barbara Potter, Administrative Assistant (effective November 2011)

# Community and Academic Research Associates

In keeping with our commitment to collaborative research partnerships between diverse communities and the academic community, the Centre has established two affiliations: Community Research Associates and Academic Research Associates. These Research Associate positions provide an affiliation to the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children, and to the Western University. These positions formalize the relationship between those who recognize the many contributions to the work of the Centre made by diverse community members and academic researchers. The Centre reviews and accepts Research Associates for a renewable three year term on an ongoing basis which must be approved by the Centre’s Advisory Board. Currently the Centre has affiliations with twenty-three Academic Research Associates and eleven Community Research Associates.

## Community Research Associates

Mohammed Baobaid Executive Director, Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario   
Ms. Mandy Bonisteel Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor/ Advocate Program, George Brown College, Trainer, Respect-At-Work  
 Ms. Catherine Burr Trainer, university instructor, management coach, and workplace consultant   
Ms. Jacquie Carr Advocate and Respect-At-Work Trainer   
Ms. Pamela Cross Lawyer   
Ms. Cathy Hird Teacher, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School   
Mr. Tim Kelly Executive Director, Changing Ways   
Ms. Margaret MacPherson NFF Provincial Team   
Mr. Alfredo Marroquin Fanshawe College   
Ms. Maureen Reid Consultant   
Ms. Deborah Sinclair Member, Domestic Violence Death Review Committee; Social Worker/Consultant

## Academic Research Associates

Dr. Laura Béres Assistant Professor, School of Social Work King's University College, University of Western Ontario   
Dr. Claire Crooks Associate Director, CAMH Centre for Prevention Science Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Health Sciences, and Psychology Department, University of Western Ontario   
Dr. Myrna Dawson Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Guelph   
Dr. Walter S. DeKeseredy Professor, Criminology, Justice and Policy Studies University of Ontario Institute of Technology   
Dr. Molly Dragiewicz Assistant Professor, Criminology, Justice and Policy Studies, University of Ontario Institute of Technology   
Dr. Roma Harris Professor, Faculty of Information and Media Studies University of Western Ontario   
Dr. Lori Haskell Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry University of Toronto   
Dr. Gail Hutchinson Director, Student Development Centre University of Western Ontario   
Dr. Yasmin Jiwani Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Concordia University Dr. Holly Johnson Associate Professor, Criminology Department University of Ottawa   
Dr. Beverly Leipert Associate Professor, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences University of Western Ontario   
Dr. Alan Lescheid Psychologist and Professor, Faculty of Education University of Western Ontario   
Dr. Robin Mason Research Scientist, Women's College Research Institute and Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto   
Dr. Virginia McKendry Program Head, Bachelor of Arts in Professional Education, School of Communication & Culture, Royal Roads University   
Dr. Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy Professor Emerita, King’s University College, University of Western Ontario Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario   
Dr. Susan Rodger Associate Professor, Faculty of Education University of Western Ontario   
Dr. Charlene Senn Professor, Applied Social Psychology, Cross appointment to Women’s Studies University of Windsor  
 Dr. Dora Tam Assistant Professor, School of Social Work King’s University College, University of Western Ontario  
 Dr. Paul Tremblay Scientist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health   
Dr. Leslie Tutty Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary Academic Research Coordinator, RESOLVE Alberta   
Dr. Christine Wekerle Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University  
 Dr. Sandy Welsh Professor and Associate Chair of Graduate Studies Department of Sociology, University of Toronto   
Dr. David Wolfe RBC Chair in Children’s Mental Health, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario

# Management Committee

The Centre is governed by a Management Committee that reports to the Dean of Education. The Management Committee is responsible for overseeing the direction and management of CREVAWC as well as supporting the goals of CREVAWC and facilitating its initiatives as a faculty-based centre within the university.  
 Responsibilities of the Management Committee:

* Develop and approve a 3-year project plan and budget.
* Monitor the implementation of the plan.
* Develop and approve the annual budget. n Approve the annual report and recommend it to the Dean for approval.
* Develop a communications strategy.
* Identify fund raising priorities.
* Develop strategies to increase the integration of the Centre into the Faculty of Education through shared initiatives and resources.
* Consult with the Advisory Committee on emerging and ongoing initiatives.

The Management Committee will meet at least three times per year (fall, winter and spring) and more often if necessary

## Members of the Management Committee (2011-2012)

Dr. Vicki Shwean Chair of Management Committee Dean, Faculty of Education  
 Ms. Anna-Lee Straatman Manager, CREVAWC  
 Dr. Peter Jaffe Academic Director, CREVAWC   
Ms. Barbara MacQuarrie Community Director, CREVAWC   
Dr. Katina Pollock Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education  
 Dr. Jacqueline Specht Director, Centre for Inclusive Education Faculty of Education  
Dr. Vaughan Radcliffe Associate Professor, Richard Ivey School of Business Darlene Porter Office of the Dean Faculty of Education   
Ms. Lisa Heslop Supervisor, Family Consultants/ Victim Services Unit London Police Services

# Advisory Board

The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children was founded as a collaborative venture among the University of Western Ontario, Fanshawe College and the London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse. When the Centre was first established in 1992, it had a Board that represented the founding partners and board members were involved in developing the centre including active involvement in budget and personnel decisions. Since 2001 when the Centre joined the Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario, the Board’s role has become more of an advisory function with the management left to UWO and the centre administrative team.

## Advisory Board Members

Dr. Susan Rodger Chair, CREVAWC Advisory Board Professor, University of Western Ontario   
Mr. Joseph Dunlop-Addley Past Chair, CREVAWC Advisory Board Professor, Fanshawe College   
Dr. Gail Hutchinson Vice-Chair, CREVAWC Advisory Board Director, Student Development Centre University of Western Ontario   
Mr. Dermot Hurley Assistant Professor, School of Social Work King’s University College   
Dr. Nancy Bjerring Professor Emeritus, Fanshawe College  
 Dr. Nadine Wathen Associate Professor, Faculty of information and Media Studies University of Western Ontario   
Dr. Vicki Schwean Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario   
Ms. Pat Bethune-Davies Professor, Fanshawe College   
Ms. Carolyn Fraser Constable, Domestic Violence Unit London Police Service   
Ms. Beverly Coulston Professor, Fanshawe College   
Mr. Curtis Jones Professor, Fanshawe College   
Ms. Louise Pitre Executive Director, Sexual Assault Centre London Chair, London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse   
Ms. Liora Barak Professor, Fanshawe College  
 Ms. Lisa Heslop Supervisor, Family Consultants/Victim Services Unit London Police Service London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse  
 Justice Eleanor Schnall Judge, Ontario Court of Justice London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse  
 Dr. Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education Board Chair, At^lohsa Native Family Healing Services

# Public & Professional Education

## LEARNING NETWORK

The Learning Network is based on the work and innovation of the Domestic Violence Advisory Committee. The mandate of the Learning Network is to cover the continuum of violence, sexual harassment and stalking, and the effects of exposure to domestic violence on children. The Learning Network will undertake a range of activities including identifying gaps, emerging issues and best practices on violence prevention; research, collect, and promote effective public education and professional training materials; provide leadership in the development and maintenance of a network of professionals working to improve training on violence against women; and maintain an electronic clearinghouse of information and resources on effective training and public education initiatives. Dr. Linda Baker, formerly of the Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System has joined our team and assumed the role of Learning Director.

NEIGHBOURS, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES   
In 2005 Al O’Marra, who was chair of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee at the time, noted that, “In almost every case of domestic homicide, we found that the people around the victim knew what was going on – but didn’t know what to do about it…” The province-wide Neighbours, Friends and Families public education campaign grew out of this important observation. What began as a community-based program to teach everyone how to recognize signs of woman abuse, signs of a high risk situation, how to respond to these signs and how to make an appropriate referral has been adapted to create a workplace training program. A wide variety of workplaces have engaged in one of three training options, including community organizations, social services, municipalities, police services, unions, manufacturers and numerous private and public sector employers. 90% of more than 2,000 participants in the basic one hour education session reported that they felt an increased ability to identify the signs and risk factors of woman abuse and felt better able to make referrals and offer support. 94% of nearly 850 participants in advanced trainings reported an increased ability to identify the signs and risk factors of woman abuse and felt better able to make referrals and offer support. Visit our website at www.neighboursfriendsand families.ca

## MAKE IT OUR BUSINESS

Bill 168 amends the Occupational Health and Safety Act to address issues of workplace harassment and violence. Make it our Business utilizes principals from the Neighbours Friends and Families at Work program to teach employers, managers, supervisors, human resource professionals and other workplace people to recognize, respond and refer in situations of workplace domestic violence. Make It Our Business provides three training options; a one hour information session, a three hour leadership session or a two-day capacity building session. The training has been introduced to over 400 workplaces across the province. In the past year, we have reached over 2,300 individuals, teaching them basic response skills that will help to end domestic violence. Visit our website at [www.makeitourbusiness.com](http://www.makeitourbusiness.com)

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WORK – “NAH DU MAH DUH MIN”

The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children has joined with At^lohsa Native Family Healing Services and The Sisters of St. Joseph to support the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission locally. Our initiative, Nah du mah duh win means “Helping One Another.” Our vision is to bring together local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community leaders, to involve faith groups and educational stakeholders in the healing and reconciliation process, and to bring the national work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into our local context. We recognize the journey toward healing and reconciliation is not an easy or immediate one, but has the potential to be a transformative learning process requiring a commitment from both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. This work is a spiritual process and it is important throughout our efforts to understand ourselves as contributors to the telling of a new story, one based on mutual respect and reciprocity. Our guiding principles are: n This will be a learning process n We want the learning process to be transformative n We desire a healing of national racism at the local level n This is a story of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples n We understand ourselves as being at a point in time in an ongoing process of healing/reconciliation n We recognize that capacity-building will happen in the communities who are part of the process n We ourselves are the new story We believe that together, we can begin to forge new relationships. We are grateful for financial support from The Moving Forward Together Campaign to assist us with this work.

## CURRICULUM MATERIALS ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION

* Curriculum on Media Violence & Critical Literacy Skills <http://www.crvawc.ca/CritMedLitCD/index.html>
* Curriculum for Safe Schools and Sustainable Strategies <http://www.crvawc.ca/SafeSchoolsCD/index.html>
* Curriculum for Healthy Relationships www.youthrelationships.org and [www.toolsforchange.ca](http://www.toolsforchange.ca)

## COMMUNITY FORUMS HOSTED BY CREVAWC IN 2011-2012

As part of the Centre’s mandate to pursue research questions and create a community dialogue to understand and prevent abuse the Centre facilitates forums throughout the year to further the discussion and enhance community knowledge.

Fifth Annual Father’s Day Breakfast, May 31, 2011, London Convention Centre.   
CREVAWC Annual Meeting: September 19, 2011, Faculty of Education Community Room. Guest speaker: Mohammed Baobaid.   
Hosted press conference. Mohammed Baobaid, Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration, January 24, 2012, Community Room.   
The Guy’s Guide to Feminism, January 26, 2012, Faculty of Education Community Room, Guest speaker: Michael Kaufman.   
NFF workplace Champions Award Ceremony. February 17, 2012, Community Room.   
Just/Us Disappeared. Co-sponsored with Deshkan Ziibi, Ontario Native Women’s Association Annual meeting and panel presentation. March 3, 2012, Atlohsa. Guest Speaker: Pauline Shirt.   
When the Bully is the Boss: Appropriate Interventions and Investigation, March 5, 2012, Faculty of Education Community Room, Guest speaker: Geri Sanson.   
Rwandan Strategies to Prevent Violence against Women and Children, March 14, 2012, Faculty of Education Community Room, Guest speaker: Professor Shirley Randell.   
HIV/AIDS: Violence and Women, April 11, 2012, Faculty of Education Community Room, Guest speaker: Maimuna Kanyamala.

# CONFERENCES AND THINK TANKS

Domestic violence risk assessment and management in the workplace: Addressing new requirements of Ontario’s Occupational Health and Safety Act (Bill 168), June 13 - 14, 2011, George Brown College, Toronto, Ontario  
 CREVAWC, in partnership with ProActive ReSolutions and George Brown College Assaulted Women and Children’s Counsellor Advocate Program, hosted a two-day conference on domestic violence in the workplace in Toronto on June 13-14, 2011. More than 70 people attended representing various private, not for profit and municipal organizations. Workshops focused on essential knowledge about domestic violence risk assessment and management, implications and requirements of Bill 168, policies and procedures for domestic violence risk screening and safety planning. Participants found the workshop to be very informative, interactive, and helpful.

## Knowledge Exchange Workshop on Domestic Violence Training: June 16 - 17, 2011 Courtyard Marriot, Downtown Toronto, Ontario

CREVAWC hosted a Knowledge Exchange featuring domestic violence training projects funded by the Ontario Women’s Directorate. Information regarding the various programs was shared and the group collectively developed a list of Core Competencies for domestic violence training

Addressing sexual violence: Changing attitudes, changing lives, June 23 - 24, 2011, Delta Toronto West Hotel, Toronto, Ontario   
More than 160 people attended the Addressing sexual violence: Changing attitudes, changing lives forum on June 23-24, 2011 in Toronto, Ontario. The forum was coordinated by the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children and hosted by Action Ontarienne contre la violence fait aux femmes and the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres. Funding for this event was provided by the Government of Ontario through the Ontario Women’s Directorate. The Ontario government launched the Sexual Violence Action Plan in March 2011 and has committed funds to developing public education campaigns to prevent sexual violence against women. Forum participants were invited to examine sexual violence public education programs from Ontario and other jurisdictions; share expertise on innovative and effective ways to educate others about sexual violence and preventing sexual violence; and work towards identifying approaches that will work best in Ontario. Presentations and final report from the forum are available at [www.sexualviolenceforum.ca](http://www.sexualviolenceforum.ca).

Violence in the Lives of Muslim Girls and Women in Canada: Creating a Safe Space for Dialogue, Reflection, and Research. September 22-24, 2011. Four Points Sheraton, London, Ontario.   
An Invitational Symposium was held September 22-24, 2011 in London, Ontario, attended by 45 people from across Canada. A keynote address titled “Contextualizing Violence in the Lives of Muslim Girls and Women" was delivered by Yasmin Jiwani. Four panels were offered, each with four presenters. Panel titles were Muslim Girls and Women: Who are We?: Untangling the Complexities of Culture and Faith; Racism, Islamophobia, and Acts of Violence against Muslim Girls and Women; and Media Portrayals of Muslim Men, Women, and Girls: How Popular Notions Impact our Communities. Discussions focused on popular representations of Muslim girls and women, the role of the media, and the subtle and explicit ways in which Islamophobia is perpetuated in our schools and communities. Drawing on research conducted in public schools as well as analyses of popular media representations, we examined how the ‘knowledge’ about Muslim girls and women often relies on narrow images of, and normative narratives about, Muslim girls and women, consistently reproduced within textbooks and popular culture. Finally, we explored the ‘disconnect’ that exists between the use of mainstream services that are based on individualistic values with groups whose culture is deeply rooted in collectivist values. A Discussion Paper was prepared highlighting the health impacts of violence against Muslim girls and women, challenges faced when violence is experienced by Muslim girls and women, difficulties of accessing mainstream services, and strengths and gaps in current knowledge.

Children Exposed to Domestic Violence: Reducing Harm and Preventing Tragedies. October 14, 2011. London Convention Centre.   
Co-hosted with Child Abuse Prevention Council of London & Middlesex, more than 150 attended to hear presentations from Dr. Linda Baker and Dr. Peter Jaffe regarding children’s exposure to domestic violence and lessons learned from domestic homicide tragedies involving children. Ms. Julie Craven offered a heart-wrenching account of her son Jared’s murder by his father.

When Violence Becomes Entertaining: Recapturing Childhood and Adolescence from the Toxic Influence of Media. October 20 – 21, 2011, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario.   
In collaboration with several partners, more than 500 people attended the conference for educators and students to learn more about media violence. The conference opened with a forum featuring Georges Laraque, Dr. Charles Tator and Ron Wicks discussing violence in sports. Also featured was a forum theatre presentation “Tuned Out” by members of the Thames Valley District School Board. A summary of presentations and workshops is available at [www.mediaviolenceforum.ca](http://www.mediaviolenceforum.ca)

*“CREVAWC facilitates the cooperation of individuals, groups and institutions representing the diversity of the community to pursue research questions and training opportunities to understand and prevent abuse.”*

# Communication and Knowledge Transfer

## PUBLICATIONS

The Centre contributes knowledge transfer in the area of violence against women through the wide variety of articles they have written and published.  
 Chiodo, D., Crooks, C. V., Wolfe, D. A., McIsaac, C., Hughes, R., & Jaffe, P. G. (2011). Longitudinal prediction and concurrent functioning of adolescent girls demonstrating various profiles of dating violence and victimization. Prevention Science online, 12.  
 Jaffe, P. G., Wolfe, D. A., & Campbell, M. (2011). Growing up with domestic violence. Cambridge: Hogrefe.   
Jaffe, P. G., Berman, H., & MacQuarrie, B. (2011). A Canadian model for building university and community partnerships: Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children. Violence Against Women online, 1-17.  
 Jaffe, P., MacQuarrie, B., Straatman, A. L., & Reid, M. (2011). Confronting the many faces of child sexual abuse: Developing a comprehensive national prevention strategy. London, Canada: Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children.   
Jaffe, P., Dawson, M., & Campbell, M. (2011). Lessons learned from domestic violence tragedies: Emerging research, policies & practices to prevent domestic homicides. London, Canada: Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children.  
 Riley, K. M. (2012) Violence in the lives of Muslim girls and women in Canada: Symposium discussion paper. London, Ontario: Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children.

# Community Awards

SCOTIABANK STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT AWARDS FOR STUDIES IN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN   
The 2011-212 recipients of the Scotiabank Student Research Awards are Lina Rodriguez and Clara Hae Yeon Ju. Clara is a student in the Faculty of Education, Western University. Clara has worked with people who have experienced abuse in various summer programs. Clara also has a Masters in Clinical Counselling from the University of Toronto. Lina Rodriguez is a student at Western University. She has been an integral research member and administrative member of the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children for several years. She worked as a peer facilitator for the Intersecting sites of violence study in 2006 and subsequently worked on the Neighbours Friends and Families campaign. Lina is pursuing a degree in Management and Organizational Studies. She continues to work for the centre as she completes her education.

ELISABETH STEEL REURINK MEMORIAL AWARD   
The Elisabeth Steel Reurink Award is presented to a student connected with the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children who is interested in violence against women issues and plays an active role in her community. Elisabeth died in a skiing accident in March 2009. Elisabeth, daughter of Linda Steel and Brian Reurink, wrote that “Society and the world are always in need of change or fixing because as soon as we fix one problem another one arises. With every problem people have the ability and the capacity to be compassionate and reach out to help their neighbour, even if their neighbour is half-way around the world.” The recipient of this award is Jess Rueger, a first year Sociology student at Brescia College. In between her studies Jess works and volunteers at the Centre with the Neighbours Friends and Families campaign. Jess is also an active volunteer with Workplace Safety and Prevention Services and has been recognized for her work with that agency. She is committed to human rights, equality, justice and violence prevention issues. She is developing her skills as an advocate and is not afraid to name injustices or equality issues when she sees them. The award was presented by Elisabeth Steel to Jess Rueger on January 26, 2012.