In Partnership with the Lifeline Concept

ANNUAL REPORT

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We would like to dedicate this report to: those families and friends who wait at the gate.

The L.I.N.C. Mission Statement

L.I.N.C. seeks to promote equality and justice for all by advancing the basic principles of restorative justice through positive intervention in the lives of persons sentenced to lengthy terms of incarceration and in the lives of their families.

L.I.N.C. believes in and is committed to the following principles:

1. that every person within society has a fundamental right to be safe and secure,

2. that everyone is part of the reintegration process where all people have an inherent value and dignity,

3. that the positive contribution of every person can have a meaningful impact on the spirit of justice, and on the sense of well being, within the community,

4. that hope for the future lies in the potential of every individual to change, and in the willingness of others to support and encourage that change.

The L.I.N.C. Philosophy

At the core of the L.I.N.C. philosophy is a belief in restorative justice. The worthlessness and isolation that many offenders feel is often clouded by their denial of guilt, which is expressed by anger, and a sense of victimization. [1] In order for offenders to change their behaviour, they need to be accountable for what they have done to their victims, their families and the community. Only in acknowledging their responsibility, can true healing begin. (Core Value 2) L.I.N.C. weekly peer support groups and one-to-one counselling

[1]Howard Zehr, Changing Lenses: A New focus for Crime and Justice, (Waterloo, Ontario: Herald Press, 1990), pgs. 49-50.

provide an avenue to address the many issues surrounding an offender's successful reintegration into the community. Group volunteer work assists in building self-esteem by giving offenders opportunities to "give back." (Core Value 1) L.I.N.C. contributes to the protection of society by giving hope and practical assistance to those individuals who have previously thought of themselves as unredeemable. (Core Value 5)

Executive Director of the L.I.N.C. Society

Sherry Edmunds-Flett

Sherry was born and raised in the "prison capital of Canada" Kingston, Ontario. She graduated from Queen's University in 1982 with a BA Honours in Sociology. She wrote her Honours thesis under the direction of Hans Mohr of the Law Reform Commission. A year later, Sherry graduated with a Bachelor of Education in English and Music from Queen's. Her graduate degrees include: a Masters in African Area Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles (1988) and doctoral candidate status in History from Simon Fraser University. A published writer, Sherry's latest work was a chapter in Telling Tales: Women in Western Canadian History (UBC Press Fall 2000) and two entries in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography (University of Toronto Press Fall 2005). Sherry met and married her husband Glenn Flett while he was in prison. She taught adult basic education in provincial prisons in B.C. for seven years before becoming the executive director of the non-profit L.I.N.C. Society which she co-founded with Glenn. Sherry is the vice chair of the Missing Women's Legacy Society, and is the past board chair of M2W2 Restorative Christian Ministries. Glenn and Sherry live in Mission along with the love of their life- their nine year-old daughter Victoria AKA "Twinkie", their two dogs A.C. and Lilly, and their cats Bianca, Bugsy and Tippy.

L.I.N.C.'s Board of Directors

Reverend Edward Cryer

Ted Cryer came to Vancouver in 1966, after a career in retail management in England and Zambia. In 1980, Ted had a mid-life career change following a religious conversion experience. The next few years were spent working on both sides of the prison walls. Firstly, he was appointed B.C. Field Director for Prison Fellowship and, after his ordination in 1984, as a chaplain with B.C. Corrections until his retirement in 1997. Some have described his ministry as outrageous and unconventional! His wife of thirty-three years, Rosemary, is a former president of the Elizabeth Fry Society in Vancouver. Ted has four children and eight grandchildren. His hobbies include computers, music, reading and adventures of the mind. Ted joined the Board of L.I.N.C. in 2000.

Kate Collins

Kate has been working as an employment/vocational counsellor with employment barriered persons for the past 12 years. Her clients include offenders, youth at risk, women in crisis, and those affected by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect (FAS/E). She holds the RRP Designation (Registered Rehabilitation Professional, PID (Provincial Instructor Diploma), ECTC (Employment Counselling Training Certificate), and is currently completing her final courses in the Bachelor of Education degree program. Kate has facilitated workshops and training seminars for groups and clients throughout Canada and western Washington.

Val Hughes

Is the executive director of the Missing Women’s Legacy Society (MWSL). MWSL was founded by family members and supporters of the missing women who were taken from the downtown eastside of Vancouver, B.C. and murdered. MWLS is an incorporated

non-profit society dedicated to helping women suffering with addiction. The DNA of Val's sister, Kerry Koski was found on the Pickton farm in January 2004.

Rosemary Cryer

Rosemary Cryer came to Vancouver from England in 1966. Since that time she has worked for the Bay in the Vancouver downtown store. For the past twenty years, she has been a Christian volunteer with clearance in all Lower Mainland federal institutions. Rosemary was a board member of the M2W2 Association and as well sat on the board of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver, serving two years as its President. Rosemary has been married to Ted Cryer since 1968.

Brenda Marshall

Brenda's first association with corrections began at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon in 1973/74. The only corrections related classes offered by the sociology department interested this Saskatchewan farm person. In the first half of the year, a group of students participated in "rap" sessions at Saskatchewan Penitentiary with volunteer inmates. She found it interesting so in the next session, the students of the first class of Sociology 101 in Saskatchewan Penitentiary became part of a group that did a project with half of the group in the community. The inmate students administered a questionnaire to other inmates and the rest were administered to community participants. The goal was to look at values and attitudes. The only significant difference between community and inmate respondents was in the attitude toward the law, the enforcement of the law, and the judicial system.

That interest prompted Brenda to apply to the John Howard Society when they placed an ad in the newspaper under 'male and female help wanted'. At that point, they had only hired males. That was the beginning of a number of firsts for positions that a female had

not held before – John Howard Society of Saskatchewan, Regina Council, and institutional worker. Brenda was the first woman to work inside Regina Provincial Correctional Centre, the first female Parole Officer hired to work in Saskatchewan, first female Living Unit Development Officer at Kent Institution, first female Head Living Unit at Kent Institution, first female warden at Kent, Mission, Elbow Lake and Mountain Institutions.

Brenda was L.I.N.C.'s first Regional champion before she retired from the Correctional Service of Canada in 2005.

Glenn Flett

In trouble with the law since he was a child, Glenn spent twenty-three years behind bars. He was sentenced to 21 years to life in 1980 for shooting to death a Hudson's Bay store manager during a Brink's holdup in Toronto. After years of living a violent crime filled life, Glenn became a Christian while he was at Kent Institution in 1982. The Lord then began to move in his life in a mighty way. Glenn's sentence was reduced by the Ontario Court of Appeal to 14 years to life. In 1987, he married his wife, Sherry, at William Head Institution. First paroled in 1992, Glenn is the founder and co-facilitator of L.I.N.C. (Long-term Inmates Now in the Community).

In 1996, Glenn was awarded the University College of the Fraser Valley's volunteer of the year award for another program he developed called Partners in Learning which pairs tutors from Ferndale Institution with at risk youth in alternative schools in Mission and Abbotsford. He believes strongly in the concept of restorative justice with its empowerment of victims and ultimate goal of a safer community for all.

Victim Advisory Committee

Marjean Fichtenberg

Marjean Fichtenberg is the mother of a murder victim. She is a past board member of Citizens United for Safety and Justice, the first victims' advocate group in Canada. Marjean is also a member of the Canadian Association of Victim Advocates (CAVA) board. In 1996, she was instrumental in establishing a victims' advisory committee to the Correctional Service of Canada, and the National Parole Board in the Pacific Region. For the past five years, she has served on the board of directors for the Ottawa-based Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime. She has given numerous presentations and workshops to various key players and groups in the criminal justice system.

Jean Cusworth

Is the mother of a murdered child. Her daughter, Jennifer Shaun Cusworth, was killed in 1993 in Kelowna, B.C. (Up to this point- June 2006- the person or persons responsible for this crime has not been found.) Jean is an original member of the Victims' Advisory committee to the Correctional Service of Canada and the National Parole Board in the Pacific Region. Jean has given numerous presentations and workshops to various key players and groups in the criminal justice system including the RCMP. Jean was a speaker at the first annual CAVA conference held in Richmond, B.C. in December 2004. A gifted educator, Jean was the principal of William Konkin Elementary School in Burns Lake, BC until she retired in the 2004/2005 school year. She is also an alumnus of the Oxford Roundtable. Jean was also a member of the Stikine Health Council.

Rosalie Turcotte

Rosalie has been a certified dental assistant by profession since 1976, and operates a successful roofing business with her husband John. Her involvement with the criminal justice system began following the murder of her eldest son Ken in 1991 by a high school classmate. The offender is currently serving a life sentence for second degree murder. She is a founding member of the Victims' Advisory Committee to the Correctional Service of Canada and the National Parole Board (Pacific Region).

Rosalie is a staunch advocate for advancing victims' rights, and is the former director and founding member of Caveat BC, a victims' rights organization. She has worked on implementing a number of federal and provincial legislative changes in areas in which victim rights, or increased victim participation, in the system are impacted. She has also been a member of the citizen advisory committees (CAC) at both Ferndale and Mission Institutions for over five years. She joined the Ferndale CAC when Ron Wiebe was the warden there.

Rosalie is committed to the development of a fair and balanced justice system that acknowledges both the harm done to victims, and which respectfully seeks to assist them with their needs both in trying to repair their lives and by allowing them a greater voice and participation in the entire process from start to finish. She believes that allowing victims a greater role in the system will lead to an increased public awareness and understanding of the system, and also bring home the fact to offenders that they have accountability both to their victims and to the communities to which they will be returning upon release. She also believes that it is possible to accomplish these goals while recognizing and being responsive to the needs of both victims and offenders.

Rosalie is also active in the community. In addition to her work in the criminal justice system, she has been a volunteer with community policing in Mission, B.C., worked on

the development of a skateboard park for Mission youth, was director of the Abbotsford Judo club for many years, and is the current treasurer of the Mission Horse Club.

Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Activities

The L.I.N.C. Society's aim was further refined in the fiscal year 2005-2006. Focusing on developing understanding and dialogue between federal penal institutions, long –term offenders, and the community, the Society was involved in a number of very positive public awareness initiatives. They included: our public speaking engagements, conference participation, curriculum development, the E.D.G.E. (Everyone Deserves Growth and Empowerment), producing performances of the *Vagina Monologues* and *Missing*, as well as facilitating the annual L.I.N.C. clean and sober picnic, and Christmas dinner.

Public Speaking Engagements

L.I.N.C. board members, victim advisory committee members, workers and volunteers have spoken at a wide variety of venues including: Douglas, Capliano and Kwantlen Colleges, the University College of the Fraser Valley, local media outlets such as: CBC Radio, CKNW News radio, Abbotsford News, The Province and CTV, Simon Fraser University, high schools throughout the Lower Mainland, municipal government, public forums and conferences. This year, L.I.N.C. board and workers plus the victims' advisory committee participated in two sessions at the International Corrections and Prisons Association conference in Vancouver in October 2006. This fiscal year also saw L.I.N.C. receive monies from the federal department of Justice to plan a forum for national victims of crime awareness week in 2007-2008. The forum entitled "The Necessary Inclusion of Survivor Voices: Community Safety, Accountability and an Unlikely Partnership" was held at the University College of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, B.C. on April 26 2007

and was a great success. A DVD was made of the forum and is available from the L.I.N.C. office.

Inclusion of Survivor Voices

The major focus of the L.I.N.C. Society this year has been the continuing inclusion of survivor voices in our work. The Society has had survivors of serious crime on its board of directors since its inception. In 2006-2007, both the L.I.N.C. Society and L.I.N.C. and Associates (BC) Ltd. now have an victims' advisory committee that advises us from a survivor's perspective on all L.I.N.C. activities. L.I.N.C. believes that we need to use our influence within the criminal justice system and society as a whole to assist in the healing of victims, and present their points of view where and when ever possible. This is not to let our members "off the hook", so to speak, for their terrible actions as people need to be accountable for what they have done. Keeping the community safe, educating people about the human impact of murder, and honouring those who have gone on, is very important to L.I.N.C. on both global and individual levels. Some of the initiatives in this area have included:

The Human Impact of Murder

L.I.N.C. made steps to integrate survivors with offenders in our public speaking engagements. We made an application to the direct access programme of the BC Gaming Commission and received funds at the end of the 2005-2006 fiscal year for the project. (The initial idea had come from former L.I.N.C. board member Keith Kemp whose son Noah was shot to death.) It is important, we feel, to truly look at the human impact of murder. Fortunately for most Canadians, they will never know the pain and suffering of losing a loved one in such circumstances. Instead their views are formed by mainly by what they read in newspapers, magazines and watch on television and at the movies. Murder in some sense becomes objectified or faceless. Victims, along with their families and friends are forgotten alone in their grief. Offenders, along with their families and

friends are isolated behind a wall of shame. Left unanswered are basic questions such as how does one cope with the trauma of sudden death? What does it mean to take a life and to live with that guilt? The ICPA conference presentation on survivor voices in October 2006 and the community forum in April 2006were partially funded from this initiative.

Missing

The L.I.N.C. Society in cooperation with the Missing Women's Legacy Society, first presented *Missing* at the Clarke Theater in Mission, B.C. in April 2004. Written by Abbotsford playwright, Gwynne Hunt, *Missing* centers around the disappearance of sixteen year old Verna Bjerky, near Hope B.C. in 1981, and the missing women of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. (L.I.N.C. member Georgina Faith Papin's DNA was found on the Pickton farm.) In 2005-2006, Missing was presented at the Chilliwack Arts Centre, Fraser Valley Institution for Women, the Port Moody Inlet Theatre and the Vancouver East Cultural Centre. Speakers included: Irene Bjerky-Verna's sister, Val Hughes-director of the Missing Women's Legacy Society, Dave Dick-team leader, Fraser Valley Institution for Women and Sherry Edmunds-Flett, executive director of the L.I.N.C. Society.

The BC Gaming Direct Access programme gave the L.I.N.C. Society a grant to produce *Missing* again in the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The performances took place in Hope-Verna's home town and at the Fringe festival in Abbotsford. Three performances are planned for the 2007-2008 fiscal year in Surrey, New Westminster and at UCFV in Abbotsford.

Vagina Monologues

Eve Ensler's award winning play is about the violence directed towards girls and women. Each year between January and March, Ms. Ensler allows grassroots organizations around the world to produce the VM without having to pay royalties, as a fundraiser for their work with women. (Over 23 million dollars has been raised as a result.) The L.I.N.C. Society's performances were at Clarke Foundation Theatre on February 3rd and on the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium on February 17th. Over the past three years, approximately twenty thousand dollars has been raised for L.I.N.C.'s work with federally sentenced women, the Missing Women's Legacy Society, Art Matters, and Eve Ensler's spotlight of the year. Sherry Edmunds-Flett has been a part of the cast. L.I.N.C. workers and members assisted in the front lobby with ticket sales, the concession and giving out programmes. In May 2006, we were given a special treat by Eve Ensler- free tickets to her show the Good Body which Ms. Ensler performed in Vancouver!

The E.D.G.E. (Everyone Deserves Growth and Empowerment)

Three years in development, the E.D.G.E. Lifeskills programme is a comprehensive series of nine lifeskills/crime prevention workshop sessions aimed at youth in schools and communities. The program is based partly on Gordon Graham's *Breaking Barriers*, a highly successful American programme that assists corporate business people and adult offenders in prison to change thinking patterns, and develop new strategies to lead productive lives. It is supported by the Mission Community Services Society.

The E.D.G.E. is facilitated by trained ex-offenders in cooperation with mainstream educators and social workers. The objectives of the programme are to give youth the tools to deal effectively and constructively within an increasingly volatile world and to help them avoid making wrong choices which lead to crime and violence. The program also helps to identify youth who need more specialized programming.

L.I.N.C. Clean and Sober Picnic

On August 12th 2006, L.I.N.C. (Long Term Inmates Now in the Community) held its eighth annual clean and sober picnic at Rolley Lake Provincial Park on Bell Road in Mission. The hours were from 12:00 noon to 6:00p.m. There were games such as egg toss, three legged race, tug of war and sack races, along with swimming. The BBQ was potluck with some food provided. Over 80 people attended this event including L.I.N.C. members, their families, board members, community volunteers and staff from the Fraser Valley, Vancouver, Vancouver Island and the Interior. The underlying philosophy of the picnic is to assist in the building of positive pro-social relationships and sense of community.

L.I.N.C. Christmas Dinner

The annual L.I.N.C. Christmas dinner was held at St. Andrew's United Church in Mission, B.C. on December 14, 2006. This was a clean and sober turkey and ham dinner complete with all the trimmings including stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, homemade apple pie, shortbread cookies, and ice cream that L.I.N.C. members cooked over a period of three days. Over 120 people attended this event including: L.I.N.C. members and their families, L.I.N.C. board members, community volunteers, CSC staff, members of the NPB, and members of the St. Andrew's congregation. We sang carols and had a visit from Santa Claus as well. Lilydale donated the turkeys, the Mad Butcher donated a ham, Safeway and Save-on Foods donated gift certificates for food supplies, Howard Wong Farms donated vegetables, an anonymous donor gave us money for the dinner buns, and several local greenhouses donated the poinsettias that graced the tables. The direct access programme assisted the L.I.N.C. Society with the other costs.

Support Groups

In 2006-2007, L.I.N.C. received $5000 dollars from the Direct Access programme to fund our weekly support group meetings. In many ways, the weekly group meetings held at the L.I.N.C. office in Abbotsford on Mondays and Fridays, Belkin House on Wednesday nights and Manchester House on Thursdays are like aboriginal healing circles. The groups create a sense of community, a safe place where a person is not condemned for who they are, but have their thinking errors as well as good points acknowledged. It has been said that the weekly groups help individuals "detox" from prison. Every person in the circle - male and female, offender or parolee, support person, family member, staff and community volunteer is given the opportunity to speak, and is asked how their week has been. There is a high level of disclosure within the meetings and often a topic naturally develops. At the meetings, everyone can give feedback to an individual although often the group facilitator is the person who asks questions in order to focus on a particular issue. The combination of offenders just starting conditional release along side those individuals who have been out for twenty years, staff and others who have never been in prison serves to break down many barriers and stereotypes. It allows for example, the newly released offender to hear about some of the pitfalls he or she may be facing in the future from others who have made it on the street. Over 60 people attend these voluntary support group meetings every week that are located in the Lower Mainland and in Victoria on Vancouver Island.

The Fraser Valley Employment Programme

In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the L.I.N.C. Society received additional funds for the employment programme from the direct access programme. This allows L.I.N.C. to top up funding requests (that are over and above the CORCAN one hundred dollar per person limit) by individuals on conditional release who are looking for or have work by paying for training, equipment such as hard hats and construction boots and bus passes etc.