

THE 2023

CONTINUUM CONFERENCE

PROGRAM GUIDE AND SCHEDULE

www.radiuscys.ca/the-2023-continuum-conference/

WE NEED TO TALK ...



28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 1 & 2, 2023
AN ONLINE EVENT

About the Continuum

Founded in 1995, the Continuum of Services for Adolescents Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behaviour (The Continuum) grew out of a small group of clinicians in Toronto who met to discuss and coordinate their work with youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour. This group shared a commitment to providing effective treatment to these youth in order to reduce sexual offence recidivism, and thereby reduce further victimization. With the move to a more formal network came the inclusion of a much wider range of professional groups and service providers, including probation, residential and day treatment programs, children's mental health centres, child welfare agencies, the police, the judiciary, lawyers and Crown Attorneys. As the name suggests, the intention was to support and coordinate the work of this "continuum" of services and people who become involved with these youth, from the first point of contact to their transitioning from treatment.

Since 1995, The Continuum has endeavoured to provide leadership in their field. Our annual conference has provided up-to-date training on a variety of topics related to the assessment and treatment of youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour, and other clinically relevant topics. Through a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in the late 1990s, The Continuum initiated a research project designed to measure the efficacy of comprehensive treatment and to inform the development of best practice standards. This project later became the foundation for a long-term national research project.

For several years, beginning in the late 1990s, The Continuum's Steering Committee created a Legal Issues Sub-Committee to identify legislative and procedural barriers in the youth justice, child welfare and treatment systems. Finally, The Continuum has, throughout its existence, been a persistent conduit for advocacy for the treatment needs of this population and the resource needs of those who share our commitment to reducing sexual violence.

Still true to its origins, The Continuum continues to be a coalition of agencies and individuals committed to reducing sexual violence and protecting the community. We still receive no outside funding, so we depend on our participants to carry out and support the work of The Continuum. Our strength and dynamism comes from the individuals and organizations that make up The Continuum. We invite you to get involved and to stay in touch.



In recognition of the 25th Anniversary in 2020, there was a recognition that words matter. The words we use can influence people's perceptions, attitudes, and actions. As professionals working to address misperceptions about sexual abuse, we recognize the importance of accurately communicating about individuals who have abused, in the hope that they will have opportunities to live safe, fulfilling and offence-free lives. As such, The Continuum will undergo another name change to: "The Continuum Of Services For Adolescents Who Have Engaged In Sexually Abusive Behaviour".

Our Speakers



Greg Gilhooly
LAWYER, AUTHOR



Jenny Coleman
DIRECTOR, STOP IT NOW!



Ainslie Heasman
PSYCHOLOGIST, SEXUAL
BEHAVIOURS CLINIC, CAMH



Kelly Socia
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY AND
SOCIAL JUSTICE, UNIVERSITY OF
MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL



Alan Jenkins
DIRECTOR,
NADA CONSULTING



David Prescott
DIRECTOR, SAFER SOCIETY
CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER



9:15am

Keynote Address:

LAWYER, AUTHOR, GRAHAM JAMES VICTIM



Greg Gilhooly



LAWYER, AUTHOR

Sexual assault, and child sexual assault in particular, is the murder - or attempted murder - of a soul. It should be understood as such and treated and punished accordingly, with preventative steps taken in the community consistent with this understanding. We fail on both sides of things. My story is that of a seemingly successful teen, a hockey star who had skipped a grade and was at the top of his class, a strong athletic giant who on the outside would have seemed the last person likely to end up in the absolute worst situation imaginable - victimized for several years by a serial child sexual predator. I somehow survived my years with Graham only to escape and find out that as bad as the sexual abuse is, the carnage it leaves behind is even worse. I discovered that I had become my own abuser.

How did this happen? How was I groomed and how did he operate? How was he enabled? How did I respond and what did I do by myself? How does our system deal with people like him? What do we get right and wrong about these crimes? And can our institutions and organizations, including the “justice” system (or, as I prefer, the “legal results” system) and Hockey Canada, do to change to better address these matters? I will try to address all of this in my session.

Bio:

Greg is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. A former corporate lawyer, Greg took time off from his career to finally deal with a deep secret causing ongoing personal crisis; as a teen, Greg had been sexually abused by Graham James, perhaps Canada's most notorious serial child sexual offender. Greg authored “I Am Nobody”, a book about his experiences. He is a savvy, informed, and passionate media commentator in national and international media, and has testified before the House of Commons and Senate Standing Committees on Justice and Human Rights. Several psychologists have called Gilhooly a “highly functioning victim” who, because of his intellectual abilities and legal training, has the rare ability to provide a detailed and thorough perspective on the emotional and psychological impact of abuse while also addressing the relevant issues and principles at play within our legal system and our society.

MONDAY

05.01.2023



10:30am



Jenny Coleman



DIRECTOR, STOP IT NOW!

SUPPORTING YOUTH'S HEALTHY AND HARM-FREE SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS

A leader in the field of perpetration prevention, Jenny Coleman, LMCH from Stop It Now! will discuss the importance of providing youth with information and tools to make decisions about safe sexual behaviors and relationships. By seeing young people's sexual behaviors (and thoughts and interests) through a developmental lens, caregiving adults and professionals can better support youth in their understanding of consent, online risks and how to get help and speak up with concerned about their own or a peer's sexual behaviors. Through presenting findings from the new online resource for youth, WhatsOK.org, this presentation will explore how to deter youth's harmful behaviors, addressing early boundary violations and identify resources available for youth with concerns about sex and sexuality.

Objectives:

1. Promote incorporation of a developmental perspective when addressing youth's sexual behaviors and concerns.
2. Enhance knowledge of the needs of children and adolescents for supports, engagement and resources to address their questions and concerns about sex and sexuality.

Bio:

Jenny Coleman, LMHC, has been working in child welfare for 30 years; as a clinician, educator and advocate. Her background has been steeped in community and relationship based approaches, grounded on non-violence and trauma-informed models. In 2011, she joined Stop It Now! as their Helpline Director, and now serves as their Director, overseeing a national child sexual abuse prevention program. She presents globally; training individuals and youth serving organizations in primary prevention. She co-chairs the prevention committee for the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), and is a member of the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse, co-chairing the National Plan to Prevent Child Sexual abuse sub-committee. Jenny frequently contributes as a task group member in national discussions on sexual abuse prevention advocacy with organizations such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the US Dept. of Justice.



Ainslie Heasman



PSYCHOLOGIST, SEXUAL
BEHAVIOURS CLINIC, CAMH

1:00pm

TALKING FOR CHANGE: PERPETRATION PREVENTION IN CANADA

Talking for Change (TFC) launched at the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH) in August 2021 to provide national, anonymous, and confidential support to youth and adults distressed about their sexual interest in children and/or their risk to offend involving a child online or offline. The program operates an all-ages helpline as well as (non-anonymous) assessment and therapy options for adults in certain jurisdictions. This talk will explore the demographics of users of the helpline and how we have reached them, the type of support offered and the evaluation of change over a single, brief and anonymous session.

Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to evaluate the ways people at-risk to use child sexual abuse material or offend against a child can be reached to increase help-seeking when needed.
2. Participants will be able to demonstrate an understanding of how a single session intervention can impact distress, hopelessness and suicidal ideation, as well as perceived risk to offend.

Bio:

Dr. Ainslie Heasman is a registered clinical forensic psychologist in Ontario with over 15 years of experience engaging in the assessment and treatment of adults with sexual behaviour problems and/or atypical sexual interests. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Forensic Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology in 2005. She is employed full-time at the Sexual Behaviours Clinic at the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto and maintains a private practice. Dr. Heasman has led the development of Canada's first national and federally funded child sexual abuse perpetration prevention program, Talking for Change, housed at CAMH. She is a member of the Canadian Psychological Association and the Ontario Psychological Association and is President-Elect of the Association for the Treatment & Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA).



Kelly Socia

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ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY AND
SOCIAL JUSTICE, UNIVERSITY OF
MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL

2:30pm

USING LANGUAGE TO AVOID LANDMINES: HOW TO CONVEY SCIENTIFIC FACTS AND CUT THROUGH MYTHS

How can we convey important scientific information to folks who are not interested in 'statistics' and would rather listen to their 'gut'? How can we cut through the widespread myths and misperceptions the public has about individuals with sex crime convictions, to promote fairer and more effective policies? This presentation will examine some of the right (and wrong) ways to communicate information about controversial and stigmatizing topics to the public and policymakers, so that the underlying message has the best chance of being listened to and acted upon.

Objectives:

1. Understand how the public and policymakers typically respond to people with sex crime convictions and the associated public policies targeting his population.
2. Understand the 'dangers' of using stigmatizing/labeling language in terms of impacting public opinion.
3. Identify best practices for discussing stigmatized populations and controversial opinions with the public and policymakers.
4. Identify the original source of the 'frightening and high' sexual recidivism myth.

Bio:

Kelly M. Socia, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the School of Criminology and Justice Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, where he is also a fellow for the Center for Public Opinion. His research interests include punitive views, sex offense policies, public opinion, and policymaking.



Alan Jenkins

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DIRECTOR, NADA CONSULTING

9:15am

‘DOING SHAME WITHOUT SHAMING: FROM MORAL REACTIONS TO ETHICAL RESPONSES WITH SEXUALLY HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR’

Intervention with sexually harmful behaviour is fraught with dilemmas as we traverse the range of dominant cultural imperatives, injunctions and moral judgments; Why did you?; How could you?; Take responsibility!; Stay away! These cultural demands have tended to colonise both the statutory and the therapeutic, often in ways that appear to legitimise coercive control and compromise children’s development.

In such a highly shaming context, the capacity for young people to find an ethical pathway becomes greatly diminished, leaving them feeling profoundly threatened and humiliated and with highly reactive behaviour. This shaming environment, especially for those who have experienced disadvantage, inadvertently serves to isolate and further deplete an already tenuous sense of connection and belonging, whilst reproducing the very power relations that enable abusive behaviour in the first place.

This workshop will highlight and illustrate a political-affective approach for responding to challenges and recurring problems that arise in work with disconnected and disadvantaged young people who are grappling with the effects of shame, panic and social threat in the aftermath of sexually harmful behaviour.

The workshop will focus on establishing, maintaining and repairing affective attunements and connection with young people, with a particular emphasis on the parallel journeys that we share with our clients and members of their families and communities. A restorative approach that enables social connection and belonging can serve to promote personal accountability and respectful behaviour.

Objectives:

1. Develop a parallel and affective restorative journey with young people and their supporters, whilst navigating a highly shaming and threatening social world.
2. Explore ethical accountability through a shift from risk-focussed assessment to restorative practice.
3. Become attuned to creative possibilities in troubling affects associated with shame and loss.
4. Resist shaming and judgemental practices in favour of curiosity, play and experimentation.

Bio:

Alan has worked in a range of multi-undisciplinary teams addressing violence and abusive behaviour for more than 35 years. Rather than tire from this work, he has become increasingly intrigued with possibilities for the discovery of ethical, respectful and accountable ways of relating. The valuing of ethics, fairness and the importance of protest against injustice has led him to stray considerably from the path prescribed in his early training as a psychologist, towards a political analysis of abuse.

1:15pm



David Prescott

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DIRECTOR, SAFER SOCIETY
CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER

MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING AND DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Motivational interviewing (MI) is a client-centered counseling method for exploring how and why a person might change and is based upon a guiding style. It is currently in widespread use around the world. This workshop focuses on key skills and concepts in MI with adolescents. It provides a special focus on using MI in the context of difficult conversations, whether when listening to an angry client or telling others “the hard truth.” Importantly, it also covers changes made to MI during the past decade. Its principles and techniques match those known to produce positive outcomes with people who have abused (e.g., Marshall, 2005) and has been found to be effective with adolescents in variety of settings. MI can be particularly useful for motivating adolescents who are ambivalent about change and ambivalent about engaging in treatment.

Objectives:

1. Identify the four components that make up the “MI Spirit”.
2. Demonstrate the four motivational interviewing micro-skills.
3. Describe the four processes that make up MI.

Bio:

A mental health practitioner of 38 years, David Prescott is the Director of the Safer Society Continuing Education Center. He is the author and editor of 25 books in the areas of understanding and improving services to at-risk clients. He is best known for his work in the areas of understanding, assessing, and treating sexual violence and trauma. Mr. Prescott is the recipient of the 2014 Distinguished Contribution award from the Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA), the 2018 recipient of the National Adolescent Perpetration Network's C. Henry Kempe Lifetime Achievement award, and the 2022 recipient of the Fay Honey Knopp Award from the New York State Alliance for the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and New York State ATSA. He also served as ATSA President in 2008-09. Mr. Prescott currently trains and lectures around the world. His published work has been translated into Japanese, Korean, German, French, Polish, and Dutch. He has served on the editorial boards of four scholarly journals.

CONFERENCE

Schedule

MONDAY

05.01.2023

8:00 - 9:00 AM	●	ZOOM Registration Opens
9:00 - 9:15 AM	●	Opening Remarks
9:15 - 10:15 AM	●	Lawyer, Author, Graham James Victim Greg Gilhooly, Lawyer, Author
10:15 - 10:30 AM	●	Refreshment Break
10:30 - 12:00 PM	●	Supporting Youth's Healthy and Harm-Free Sexual Behaviours Jenny Coleman, MA, LMHC
12:00 - 1:00 PM	●	Lunch Break
1:00 - 2:00 PM	●	Talking for Change: Perpetration Prevention in Canada Ainslie Heasman, Psychologist
2:00 - 2:15 PM	●	Today's Research, Tomorrow's Future
2:15 - 2:30 PM	●	Refreshment Break
2:30 - 4:00 PM	●	Using Language to Avoid Landmines: How to Convey Scientific Facts and Cut Through Myths Kelly Socia, Ph.D., Associate Professor

CONFERENCE *Schedule*

TUESDAY 05.02.2023

8:00 - 9:00 AM	●	ZOOM Registration Opens
9:00 - 9:15 AM	●	Opening Remarks
9:15 - 10:15 AM	●	Doing Shame Without Shaming: From Moral Reactions to Ethical Responses With Sexually Harmful Behaviour Alan Jenkins, Director - NADA Consulting
10:15 - 10:30 AM	●	Refreshment Break
10:30 - 12:00 PM	●	Doing Shame Without Shaming: From Moral Reactions to Ethical Responses With Sexually Harmful Behaviour Alan Jenkins, Director - NADA Consulting
12:00 - 1:00 PM	●	Lunch Break
1:00 - 1:15 PM	●	The Jim Shea Award Presentation
1:15 - 2:30 PM	●	Motivational Interviewing and Difficult Conversations David Prescott, Director - Safer Society Continuing Education Center
2:30 - 2:45 PM	●	Refreshment Break
2:45 - 4:00 PM	●	Motivational Interviewing and Difficult Conversations David Prescott, Director - Safer Society Continuing Education Center

CONFERENCE *Award*

THE JIM SHEA MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE Call for Nominations

Submission Deadline: Friday, April 7, 2023 before 5:00 p.m.

Jim Shea spent much of his social work career developing and delivering services for youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour and for those affected by them.

He was the founding Director of the Peel Collaborative Child and Adolescent Sexual Abuse Treatment Program, where he worked until his death in the summer of 2005.

This award is made once a year to someone from the Continuum's membership who has made a significant contribution to the development and provision of services to youth who have sexually offended. Recipients are those who, like Jim, have contributed to our development and collaboration as a service community, have encouraged and supported workers, especially those just entering in this field of practice, and who have engaged in practice that is respectful, collaborative and effective.

Each year the Continuum Committee invites members of the Continuum to nominate someone who meets the following criteria:

- Nominees should have been involved in

working for a significant period of time with youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour, their families and those affected by their offending behaviour.

- Their practice should have had an impact on the youth and/or service providers in Ontario.
- Their contribution to this field of practice, in whichever role they occupy, should be remarkable for its longevity, impact, novelty or scope.
- They have practiced in a way that has fostered appropriate attention to the issues and an appropriate regard for the youth we collectively serve.
- They have yet to receive recognition for their efforts that is clearly deserved.

Please forward your nominations with a brief summary outlining how your nominee meets the above criteria. Nominations should be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 7, 2023.

NOMINATION *Form*

Nominee Information

Name of Nominee:

Affiliated Organization(s):

Credentials:

Years of Service:

How has the Nominee made a significant contribution to the development and provision of services to youth who have sexually offended?

Thank you for your nomination!

Submissions Instructions:

1. Click the "SUBMIT" button below to email OR
2. Fill in and email this page to: Allison Swanson at: aswanson@radiuscys.ca

REGISTRATION *Fees*

EARLY BIRD (before April 7, 2023)	\$125	GROUP	\$125
GENERAL	\$150	STUDENT	\$100

Please Note the Following:

- Student Fee - a photocopy of current Student I.D. must accompany registration. Email to: aswanson@radiuscys.ca.
- Group Fees - Applicable to three (3) or more from the same Agency/Organization. All individuals must register at the same time to receive the group discount.
- The Contact Person (CP) for the group should be listed below if different than the Primary Attendee.
- Participants who register online will receive an automatic registration confirmation by email following their payment submission. For those who submit their registration by fax or mail, confirmations will be generated and emailed from Radius Child and Youth Services prior to the conference.

- **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**

If you are paying via credit card, please register online at: <https://radiustraininginstitute.ca/product/2023-continuum-conference/>

If you are paying via cheque, please contact Allison Swanson at: aswanson@radiuscys.ca to arrange payment and confirm attendees.

****NOTE:** We welcome an open and free exchange of ideas and perspectives at this year's Continuum Conference. Please note that we do not endorse nor repudiate the views and opinions of any of the guest speakers/presenters. Further, the target audience of the Continuum Conference is: mental health professionals, social workers, probation officers, residential staff, child welfare staff, judiciary, therapists and child and youth workers.

