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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

St. Leonard's Society of Canada will be holding its AGM at the Westin Nova Scotian, Halifax, N.S. on June 17, 2001

Agenda items include: approval of agenda, minutes of previous AGM, actions of Board of Directors, membership fees; receipt of reports of Board of Directors and Auditor; appointment of Auditor; disposition of policy resolutions; election of Directors of the Society and *a resolution relating to the amendment of the Society's Bylaws*

A copy of proposed amended Bylaws, proxy forms, and detailed information on AGM agenda items are all available from the Ottawa Office on request.

In conjunction with our AGM, SLSC and our local affiliate, SLS Nova Scotia, will be co-hosting the St. Leonard's annual conference:

Bolton Lecture Day 2001

Societal Imperatives: Health, Housing and Social Justice

See pages 5-6 for details and a registration form.

ABOUT US . . .

St. Leonard's Society of Canada is a national voluntary organization whose mission is to prevent crime and promote responsible community living and safer communities. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily shared by the editors or the Society.

Registered Charitable Organization #12894 6829 RR0001.

All donations will receive a tax receipt. Your support helps us to do more. Thank You.

Submissions, inquiries and comments are welcomed.

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St. Leonard's Society
of Canada



Société St.-Léonard
du Canada

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Coast TO Coast

Spring
2001

Meet the Drop In Centre

This winter, Drop In Centre Kingston Inc became an Associate member of St. Leonard's Society of Canada. I had the pleasure of speaking with John Cornish, a senior staff member, about why Drop In Centre chose to join SLSC.

CK: Tell us a bit about Drop In Centre, John.

JC: Drop In Centre Kingston is a charitable organization under the direction of a community-based Board of Directors. Since 1972, it has been instrumental in developing and operating correctional/rehabilitative programs in Kingston which are community alternatives to incarceration. It was formed when committed volunteers began a "drop-in" support centre for women on day parole from the Prison for Women. The program evolved into a half-way house for men from the federal and provincial institutions of the area - the first such project in Ontario's CRC program. In the early 80's, Aberdeen House provided the springboard for development of the HELP Program, which became a national employment program for adult ex-offenders. From its basement office emerged "Alternatives", a long-running domestic abuse program, and a host of internally-run programs on anger management, pro-social values, etc.

In 1984, Drop In Centre began a Community "Open Custody" residence for male Young Offenders. This project, Yonge House, continues as the main program of Drop In Centre.

CK: What other areas are you developing programs in?

JC: Drop In Centre believes that there are many constructive alternatives to incarceration that must be addressed in the continuing effort to create safer, more caring communities. We believe Restorative Justice offers hopeful solutions for our community to respond to crime and other anti-social behaviour in meaningful, long-lasting ways. Drop In Centre is committed

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The Long Haul: SLSC completed the last of its Head Office move as archival material in storage in Windsor was finally brought Ottawa last winter, despite an unplanned 3-hour stop-over near Port Hope when the moving truck's alternator passed on. Photo: David Whiteley

News and Views *Should You Care?*

Should you care that Corrections Canada has adopted a policy placing persons whose minimum sentence on conviction was life in maximum security settings for a minimum of two years? After all, most people with a minimum life sentence spend far more than two years in a maximum security setting. But, and it is a big but, they do so in compliance with the principles of the governing Corrections and Conditional Release Act and in accordance with assessments of risk that are

founded in effective corrections.

This new policy sets a disturbing direction for corrections. It rates custody for this group by offence - not by risk assessment; it

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A Second Chance

A resident of St. Leonard's Society Peel's Rotary Resolve House tells his story

Up until late 1996, my life was quite stable. I was living in a nice house in a quiet neighbourhood in the east end of Toronto. My backyard was Don Mills, the northeast corner of North York. The intersecting highways of the 401 and the 404 were just 2 minutes from my doorstep. At the trailing edge of '96, all things would change for me. Until that time, I was quite comfortable, with not too many worries. I had been living in that house for the past 25 years, and I called it home. A place of familiarity. Most of those years, I had regular jobs. The last few years there, I stayed at home being a care giver to my mother and oldest sister.

In early December, my mother was taken ill with severe internal pains and had to be rushed to the hospital. The doctors found that her colon had burst like a balloon and spilt its acidic fluids all over the internal walls and organs causing the pain. She remained in the hospital until passing away on January 19th '97.

After her passing, the family lawyer notified us that we would have to sell our home. It could not be given to one member of the family and the others ignored. I would have to move.

The house was sold in April and I took up new residence in my youngest sister's place in Mississauga. She and I had always been close, so I foresaw no problems. I found out soon just how

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St. Leonard's Society
of Canada



Société St.-Léonard
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Our mission. . . prevent crime and promote responsible community living and safer communities.

Should You Care? (continued from page 1)

restricts the review of that rating to a period twice as long as that for other prisoners; and its' override procedure is so restrictive as to be virtually nonexistent. It has no apparent foundation in research or evidence. It neither furthers public safety nor the rehabilitation of the prisoner. In fact, it may have the opposite effect by developing in the correctional service a precedent for the unfair treatment of prisoners based on a very superficial framework of offence based management.

The sentence of the court is for the deprivation of liberty: the role of the Corrections Service is to carry out the sentence safely and humanely and to assist with rehabilitation and reintegration. The principles that govern this role include as a first consideration the protection of society and, among other important factors, both the use of the least restrictive measures as well as the retention by offenders of rights and privileges save for those that of necessity are removed or restricted by the court's sentence. The policy does not honour these precepts.

Maximum security prisons are hard places. The restrictions on activity are extreme because of the required security measures. Canada has determined that because of the risk posed by some prisoners, such prisons are necessary for the safety of all. Corrections research, much of it under the auspices of Corrections Canada, has found that risk can be assessed by reference to a range of factors. The section of the Criminal Code under which a prisoner has been found guilty is not one of those factors.

Other issues that cause concern: maximum security for women often means a men's prison and the policy will compound the problems that are inherent in that situation; aboriginal people form a disproportionate number of those in the targeted category; prisoners from Nunavut may be further dislocated by it. Access to legal advice, poverty, disadvantage - all have an impact on the type of conviction that is registered. Should these factors also affect how a sentence is served?

Lifers are lifers - that is a fact. Is it also to be a fact that they will be managed differently than other prisoners - not based on risk but on conviction? Will program decisions then be made on the basis of offence and not risk or need? Is arbitrary prison placement an act of 'just desserts'? Is the real message here that Canada is tough on criminals? Is denunciation the mandate of Corrections? The law and the evidence suggest otherwise.

Canadians are justifiably proud of their justice system that is based on fairness and humanity. That is why you should be concerned about the Commissioner's new policy. That is why the Commissioner should retract Standard Operating Practices (700-14).

Elizabeth White, Executive Director, SLSC

Commissioner's Standard Operating Practice (700-14) was issued in February, 2001. Prisoners have been transferred as a result. St. Leonard's Society of Canada, along with other social service agencies, is urging the government to repeal the policy.

A Second Chance (continued from page 1)

wrong I could be. My sister made me feel like I didn't belong and that I was worthless. By July, I was so fed up I started to look for an apartment.

I moved and looked for work. I found work through temp agencies but they only paid \$7.00 per hour. I struggled with this for two years, constantly being short of money. When jobs through the agency started tapering off, I fell behind in my rent. My last Christmas there was lonely and overwhelming. Everyone else was celebrating. My memories of Christmas '96 haunted me. I became so despondent that I tried to commit suicide 3 times.

I was evicted from my apartment. I was out on the streets, going from one shelter to another. After awhile, I could no longer find shelters to take me. I called up a friend from my past who helped me find work and a room. I moved to Brampton and got a job driving a Raymond Reach in a packaging plant. I enjoyed it, and was good at it. Unfortunately, the boss made me promises he never intended to keep. After 4 months, I got fed up and quit. My next job, I walked all the way - 4 hours! - because I had no bus fare. As soon as I entered the front door, I collapsed from an angina attack and fatigue. After my release from hospital, there was no job waiting for me. I was out on the street again.

When my daily job search was done, I spent my hours at the library. At night, I would sleep at a 24 hour donut shop. The manager let me stay in the smoking lounge and brought me tea and donuts for helping with the cleanup. Before 8 am, I would leave and look for work again. At one point, my feet and legs got quite swollen from this routine. When I went to the hospital, the nurses had a social worker talk to me. The social worker took me to a Brampton shelter. My first week there, I had a heart attack and was back in the hospital. Upon release, I was sent back to the shelter. After 4 weeks, the people from Welfare wanted me out. I was put me in touch with someone from St. Leonard's. They said it would be a much better place and I could stay as long as I needed. That was in June of 2000. It is now March, 2001 and I'm working hard at getting my life back together.

Because of my heart attack, I couldn't go back to work for several months. Also, my doctor objected to my returning to my past jobs because they were too stressful. I decided to learn about computers. At St. Leonard's, I've made some good friends. Other residents and in particular, the staff. They're all great people, and I'm happy to say we have a great relationship. I do my share of the chores and attend groups such as, Lifeskills, Choices, Anger Management and Cognitive Skills. I started taking computer courses such as, Keyboarding, Computer Basics and Introduction to Windows 2000. In a few weeks, I'll be going back for Intro to Word 2000, then Access and Excel. These will give me the skills to get a good career. I'm proud of the work that I've accomplished so far. I'm writing short stories and poems and intend to finish a book I've started. This place has been a sanctuary for me. I don't know what would have happened to me if I hadn't been allowed to come here. Here I've relearned old coping skills, and learned some new ones. I will always be grateful for the help and support that the staff have given me. I will always think of them as good friends and I love them all. May I continue to learn and grow with their help and guidance. May I always strive to be the best I can be. To all the staff at St. Leonard's, I say a heartfelt thank you.

With sincere gratitude,

Bernard S. Bob

SOCIETY INFO

Toronto: The Right Staff

St. Leonard's Society of Toronto has always appreciated the value of our hard working staff at all of our program sites. However, in a thriving social service job market, with agencies and governments able to offer compensation packages which we are unable to match, we lost many of our best and longest serving staff. Nevertheless, we remain committed to providing quality services with the best trained staff in both our residential and non-residential programs. We are pleased to have brought on board new staff to help us face ongoing challenges.

With the new fiscal year at hand, Toronto's Program base remains steady. Crossroads House continues to maximize utilization and operate smoothly using effective case management practices. Crossroads Director Sonya Spencer will continue to deliver the CHOICES program over the coming year. The After School Tutoring Program is thriving with a strong contingent of volunteer tutors and a regular influx of new students. The HRDC funded Employment Program will continue this year, and we plan to expand services to include job placement.

And of course, we have Walter Huculak! Our programs would not be viable without his efforts in fundraising. Newer Board members have also contributed to the fundraising cause.

Over the year, we will review program opportunities and partnerships to build on our residential history and crime prevention mandate. We wish SLSC, its affiliates and St. Leonard's supporters a prosperous year.

Paul Fernane, Executive Director, SLS Toronto

North Vancouver: Happy 20th Anniversary!

On May 3rd St. Leonard's Society of North Vancouver will celebrate its 20th anniversary. The affiliate will be marking the occasion with a dinner and auction at Chez Michelle's. The event is in support of the successful Drug and Alcohol program North Vancouver implemented three years ago. All proceeds from the dinner and auction are going toward the continued success of the drug and alcohol program. The evening will be hosted by Merrikay Snelgrove, Vice-President of SLSC and a Director of North Vancouver, and the auctioneer will be Paulah Dauns, a Director of both SLSC and North Vancouver. The guest speaker for the gala is Elizabeth White, SLSC's Executive Director.

North Vancouver began serving federally sentenced men in 1981 with a staff of only four employees. During the past twenty years its staff has grown to nine employees serving thousands of individuals. North Vancouver has a rich history of advocating on behalf of federally sentenced men on provincial, regional and federal levels. This tradition of advocacy is reflective of the work of T.N. Libby, founder of the original St. Leonard's Society.



All Work and No Play...: With little time to enjoy Ottawa's "Winterlude" festival, SLSC Directors decompressed at a late-night dinner after a long, dark February day of Board meetings, Strategic Planning and presentations on governance. Photo: David Whiteley

Prizes donated for the auction include a Jennifer Garrent painting valued at over \$1000.00, a trip to Whistler including travel and accommodations and much more. For more information on the event please contact Wilma Douglas-Dungey, Executive Director of St. Leonard's Society of North Vancouver.

Cathy Ann Kelly, Research Assistant, SLSC

Meet the Drop In Centre (continued from p.1)

to uniting community efforts to add Restorative dimensions to local justice programs. We also support Post-charge Diversion and other extra judicial services for the mentally ill and the developmentally challenged. We are looking into the need for further programs for these folk, and our role in providing them.

Kingston is home to a number of federal correctional institutions. We look forward, as a St. Leonard's Associate, to examining what roles our organization might undertake to promote more effective re-integration of individuals released from these institutions. We respect the broad view our new St. Leonard's colleagues have of community corrections and are anticipating our discussions with them as we develop our future plans.

CK: What do you see as the main purpose for joining SLSC?

JC: We expect to be greatly stimulated by our new colleagues. Association with St. Leonard's will provide us with an excellent window into the many facets of correctional development in Canada. We expect to learn from the experience and research of the Society and hope that we'll gain credibility and support for our new endeavours. In return, we look forward to being an instrument in our region to promote the aims of the Society as so aptly described in your - now our - mission statement.

Cathy Ann Kelly, Research Assistant, SLSC

Thanks to John for taking the time to share some valuable information on his organization. SLSC welcomes Drop In Centre Inc. to the Society and looks forward to working with them in the future.

BOOK REVIEW

MORAL PANICS

Kenneth Thompson, Routledge, London, 1998.

Canada's current concern with child sex offenders and the creation of a discourse of fear and risk is reminiscent of the sociological concept of "moral panic". Kenneth Thompson, a Professor of Sociology at the Open University in England has written an informative guide to this concept and provides a useful tool of analysis for our understanding of how the actions of a few offenders can arouse, or cause to be aroused, the public's fear and anxiety about them. He accepts that we are living in an age of moral panics whether it is concerns over children who kill, rise of female violence and girl gangs, child sex offenders, muggings and club culture and raves. All of these topics are current headlines in our daily newspapers and television news and documentaries.

The author provides a concise survey of the development of the concept of moral panic and attempts to analyze how public perceptions are shaped and reflected through the media. The book is comprised of eight tightly written chapters that develop the idea of moral panic and draw out useful analytical concepts for our understanding of how claims-makers and moral entrepreneurs are able to shape public perception of specific issues. In the opening chapter Thompson raises the question "why the panic?" and discusses the topicality of the concept of moral panics. He introduces us to the history and meaning of the concept in the 1960's when society in England was concerned with the "mods and rockers" and later the "drug-takers" through the rise of mugging, to the current preoccupation with sex and violence - all of which are supposed to lead to moral decay and a subsequent decline of civilization.

He highlights the spiral effect of the interactions between the media, public opinion, interest groups and politicians that give rise to a moral panic. Generally a panic starts when someone or something is identified as a threat to current values or interests. This threat is easily portrayed in the print or electronic media and there follows a rapid build up of public concern. This results in a response from opinion-makers or the political sphere. The panic runs its course and either recedes or results in changes in social regulation or control. In the chapters that follow Thompson selects specific studies of moral panics to illustrate the development of theoretical approaches to the study of this phenomenon.

In chapter two he looks at what he calls the classic moral panic: the concern over the emergence of the mods and rockers, the so-called folk devils. This was a panic about the moral condition of British youth. Thompson uses the analysis of this event to demonstrate the role of the media, especially how exaggeration, distortion, prediction and symbolization by media reports and stories foster the idea of a threat to values. This of course lead to a social reaction led by social control agents and moral entrepreneurs and subsequent demonization of youth (an issue still very much with us).

His next chapter builds on the issue of moral panics about youth and examines responses to club culture and raves. For a period of time the studies of moral panics centered on the youth subculture. There has always been

a concern about the youth and this not surprising given its transitional nature, occupying ground somewhere between childhood and adulthood. Thompson notes that "Youth presents a problem for the social regulation and the reproduction of the social order. But the relationship between the generations and generational cultures is also problematical for young people themselves, and youth cultures and subcultures can be read or decoded as responses and attempted solutions to these strains".

Thompson in his discussion the moral panic about mugging is interested in the advances of theory in decoding media narratives. He is especially drawn to the concept of the "signification spiral", a process he notes of publicly signifying issues and problems which is intrinsically escalating. This chapter is particularly useful in helping us to understand how the media selects what it constitutes as "good news". The end product, that is the news story, is the result of a fairly complex process of selecting events and topics in accordance with a predetermined concept of what a good story is.

Thompson continues to build his analysis of moral panic and the development of new tools for investigating the phenomena by examining panics about sex and aids, family, children and violence, female violence and girl gangs and sex and television. By looking at these studies he attempts to show how each of the panics are not simply discrete, isolated episodes which flare up and then recede but, he claims, are symptoms of wider social and cultural tensions.

As the author notes in his conclusion: "It is only recently, in the 1990's, that the continuing rapid succession of phenomena commonly described as 'moral panics' has begun to force a reappraisal, and we have reintroduced the possibility of regarding moral panics as symptomatic of developments that are of wider significance, rather than viewing them simply as unrelated episodes of collective behavior". This reappraisal takes a number of changes into account, namely:

1. Structural changes: economic restructuring and deregulation, immigration and international population flows, changes in the division of labour.

2. Technological changes in communications: computerized newspaper production, satellite broadcasting, cable and video and the Internet.

3. Cultural changes: increased diversity, fragmentation of cultures, conflicts over identity, lifestyles and morals,

What is the result? Thompson has shown that the at-risk character of modern society is magnified and is particularly inclined to the formation of moral panics and that such events are characteristic of the modern "risk" society.

Given the current climate in Canada, Thompson's survey of studies and theories related to the growth and development of moral panics is particularly useful to our understanding of the interaction between the media, interest groups, social control agents and the political sphere. Without agreeing with all of Thompson's analysis there is a wealth of insight in these few pages to warrant a closer look at the development of recent 'moral panics' in our own setting.

Donald G. Evans, President, Canadian Training Institute/ Institut Canadien de Formation, Toronto.



St. Leonard's Society
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St. Leonard's Society
of Nova Scotia



SLSC and SLSNS present Bolton Lecture Day 2001
Societal Imperatives: Health, Housing and Social Justice

Residential services are challenged by health barriers which affect successful re-entry to the community. St. Leonard's Society sees this as more than a criminal justice issue, and believes that a discussion of the common issues faced by various disadvantaged groups will help emergency, transition and halfway house staff and communities to better understand and address these health and wellness issues.

At first glance it may appear that individuals emerging from the criminal justice system, released offenders, re-entering the community by way of residential facilities such as halfway houses have little in common with other citizens needing community residential supports, such as developmentally, mentally and physically disabled persons. In reality there are a number of similarities. This year's Bolton Lecture Day will deal with health-related issues affecting various disadvantaged groups, such as young offenders and youth at risk, aging and ill lifers and people living with disabilities, addictions, mental illness and HIV/AIDS.

Sadly, for a variety of reasons these groups too often experience challenges to their human rights and privacy, poverty and housing crises and resistance to acceptance in neighborhood as tenants with rights. The medical/health systems struggle to respond to their needs. St. Leonard's Society of Canada, in conjunction with our affiliate, St. Leonard's Society of Nova Scotia, has called upon interested parties to present papers with strategies to overcome the barriers. Community based residential service providers will discuss their challenges and best practices at this year's Ken Bolton Lecture Day. Solutions to remove the barriers to health supports, stable housing and social rights for clients will emerge. The papers presented will subsequently be published for widespread distribution.

For further information, please contact SLSC's head office in Ottawa: (613) 233-5170 or 1-888-560-9760. To contact the Westin Nova Scotian, call 1-877-993-7846.

Please note that registration is limited. Guarantee your place and take advantage of our discount early registration rate by returning the attached Registration Form today!

Organizing Committee: Barbara Nehiley (chair), Don Boudreau, Dave Mackenzie, Kevin Mills, Margie Naish, Jerry Smyth, Elizabeth White

Schedule

9:00 Opening Remarks

Rebecca Howse, President, SLSC
Lucie McClung, Commissioner, CSC

9:30 Opening Panel: Health, Privacy and Human Rights for People with Special Needs in Residential and Criminal Justice Settings

Grant Wanzel, Professor of Architecture, Daltech, Dalhousie University
Dr. Karen Johl, Clinical Director of Shared Care and Mental Health Services Capital District, Halifax
Archibald Kaiser, Professor of Law, Dalhousie University

11:00 Impacts of Aging for Lifers

Dave MacKenzie, In-Reach Worker, Nova Scotia
Ernie LeBlanc, In-Reach Worker, New Brunswick

11:45 HIV and AIDS Resources in Institutional and Community Settings

Laurie Boss-Greenhow, RN, Springhill Institution
Al McNutt, Chair, Atlantic AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia

12:30 Lunch

2:00 Addictions/ Substance Abuse

Dr. Brian Grant, Director, Addictions Research, CSC
Mary Morris, Exodus House

2:40 Best Practices For Serving Depressed and Suicidal Youth

Lynn MacDonald, Phoenix Youth Programs

3:35 Workshop: Wellness Strategies for Addressing Challenging Conditions, for Staff, Clients, Volunteers

Bill Carr, humourist

4:45 Closing

Merrickay Snelgrove, Vice-President, SLSC

5:00 Reception