

In Dignity
Hawke's Bay
New Zealand
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Response-Based Practice at the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society

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**We extend greetings from the
beautiful Yukon!**





CANADA Physical Map 0 km 300 600 900
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Yukon Women's Transition Home Society

Kaushee's Place

Betty's Haven

Barbara McInerney

Executive Director
Yukon Women's
Transition Home
Society

Heavy Equipment
Operator/ Driller
Swimmer

Activist
Grandma

Renee-Claude Carrier

Activist Counsellor
A-D. Kaushee's Place
Yukon Women's
Transition House

Extreme Athlete

Home Builder

Montagnais Nation

Stats

- In Canada a women is murdered by her partner every 6 days
- In Canada a women is raped every two minutes
- Only 10% of rapes are reported to the police
- Charges are laid on only 1/3 of reported rapes and only 1/2 of the charges laid end up with a conviction
- 8% rape convictions end up with custodial sentencing
- Yukon has the third highest rate of wife assault and sexualized assaults in Canada

Inspiration

- Based on human rights
- Interactional analysis
- Violence against women is a gender-based crime
- Feminist foundation that women are the Stewarts of their life journey
- Allan Wade, Catherine Richardson , Ann Maje-Raider, Linda Coates, Kelly Manweiller and all of the brilliant women in our life's and that we work with

Response-Based

- The Response-Based approach has supported us in maintaining our critical analysis. It allows us to see the women and children we work with, our co-workers and ourselves as active agents responding to situations and preserving dignity.

Feminism meets Response-Based

- Violence against women is a gender based crime rooted in gender inequality
- Women are the stewards of their lives and their journey
- All women own their dignity & our job is to assist them in seeing ways they have preserved it
- We are activists who are required to work towards positive social change for ourselves and others

Integrating Response-Based into our Team

- Analysis of news paper articles and books
- Changing the language on forms and other documents
- Debriefing
- Team building
- Acknowledge the leaders on the team who could effectively re-frame

Response-Based Practice at Work

The staff at Kaushee's Place follow several principles that take into account the need of women and children to experience dignity.



Integrating Response-Based into our Work

- We work in the women's home
- Privilege - know when to yield
- We are not teaching, giving tools or helping. Rather we are an ally to strategize with
- Responding to non-compliance

- **Self-analysis:** We must be willing to examine our own ideas and practice.
- **Critical analysis:** It is important to contest victim-blaming and mother-blaming in all forms.
- We do not judge people by their past.
- Every time a woman returns to the transition house with her family, we see it as a fresh start, as though it were their first visit.

- We let the women and children decide what they want to do and talk about.
- We believe in the women and what they say.
- We take a pro-choice attitude regardless of our personal beliefs.
- All of these points of practice help women, mothers, children feel like they are in a safe place to just be.

Using Response-Based Practice Working with Staff

- RBP as Managers
- Managers have and hold a lot of power and it is important not to have special relationships with some or one of your team members that the other staff can clearly see
- It is important to have regular staff meetings where you acknowledge each other for outstanding work
- It is important to create a culture at staff meetings that cultivates positivity

The purpose of staff debriefing

1. Let go of the tape in your head
2. Go home with a clear head
3. See how capable we are
4. It is not for passing on judgement about a woman or her child
5. To ensure every staff member is delivering service that preserves dignity



“Before you diagnose yourself with depression or low self esteem, first make sure that you are not, in fact, just surrounding yourself with assholes.”

— William Gibson

Vicarious Trauma or Asshole Fatigue?

- Does this work harm us?
- Model for silencing women
- Realities of violence against women

Using Response-Based Practice in Evaluations:

- How staff respond is important
- Preservation of dignity
- We are the experts in our field
- Relationship with self and others
- Self analysis and counsel

- Barbara McInerney

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Thank you for the work
you do