

TESTIMONIALS, 2011 Victims of Homicide CONFERENCE, Edmonton

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“The Victims of Homicide Conference” held in Edmonton [May 2011] was a valuable opportunity for families and professionals to come together for learning and healing to happen around the horror of homicide. I was privileged to give two addresses around how to heal after the “Ultimate Evil”. The speakers were top notch from different perspectives representing all of the disciplines that deal with the investigative, legal and counselling needs arising from murder. The sponsoring body of volunteers were engaging and inspirational in how they have given loving energy from their own struggles to those more presently devastated by loss.

The organization of the conference was highly professional in every way aided through the work of Cathy Harvey. I personally received many business cards of those I will stay in touch with so the networking piece was very beneficial. Congratulations to those funding such an important event for those disenfranchised in our society by the travesty of loss through homicide and at times by a struggling justice system.”

Sincerely,  
Rev. Bob Glasgow  
**Founder of Grief Support Program  
Rockyview Hospital  
Calgary, Alberta**

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“Dear Conference Planning Committee and Volunteers,

Thank you so much for creating, giving, and facilitating a wonderful conference! I learned so very much and was delighted to be there. Your work, commitment and spirit were evident throughout, and much appreciated. I look forward to the next conference very much!”

Susan L. Tasker, PhD, CCC  
Assistant Professor, Counselling Psychology Graduate Program  
Principal Investigator, Siblings of Murder Victims Research  
Research Fellow, Centre for Youth and Society  
University of Victoria

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“Very helpful! Necessary information to understand what is being done to help victims, especially in Canada’s northern and arctic regions. We need to have this come to Nunavut. Our people need concise, accurate and candid presentations, with direct hands on with the people in the government and justice organizations. The conference brought me effective ways to assist me as a victim support to meet the needs and concerns of the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.”

Helen AbenReynen  
Victim Support  
Rankin Inlet, Nu.

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“I, too, wish I could have stayed longer. It was a privilege to be there. I was able to do a story on the conference on Global TV. I hope, through the story, there is more awareness for the Victims of Homicide and the important work that they are doing.”

Vinesh Pratap  
Global TV  
Edmonton, Alberta

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**“Thanks for having me back. It was, from what I was able to see, a great conference and the families I spoke with were finding it very helpful, especially the more recent ones. I know it is a lot of work, but I for one, hope you do it again one day. Maybe we can link up with the Ottawa group and make it national.”**

**Steve Sullivan  
Director of Victims Services  
Former victim advocate for Federal Government  
Ottawa, Ontario**

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**“We actually had fun at a conference on homicide! It goes to the strength of the participants and hopefully events like this assist every one of us deal with this, the worst of crimes. Thank you for allowing me to participate. The word “humbling” is the word to describe my experience at the conference. We have made new friends from this event, and we will cherish our attendance for the rest of our lives. I have never before attended an event, anywhere, which was as well organized and accommodating as this conference, and this is a credit to you and our support group.”**

**Brian Oldford  
Retired RCMP Member  
Investigator in Major Crimes  
Calgary, Alberta**

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**“I want to take this opportunity to thank you personally for the recent incredible Western Canada Conference for Victims of Homicide. Your vision, organization, thoughtful attention to detail, incredible line-up of important speakers and seminar leaders was amazing.**

**I can truly say my husband Clay and I came away feeling so blessed by the entire conference. We’ve never attended a conference like this, and came away with such a sense of gratitude, open hearts and minds and a desire to help others even more”.**

**Annette Stanwick  
Award-winning author of FORGIVENESS: THE MYSTERY AND MIRACLE**

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**“I may be hosting a radio show which will consist of interviews with people who have transformed their tragedy into something beneficial for themselves and humanity. The idea came to me the morning after the Edmonton conference and so I consider your event to have been the place where the seed was planted.”**

**Marianna Cacciatore**

Executive Director

Bread for the Journey

Novato, California

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*“Coming home to Edmonton for the Western Canada Conference for Victims of Homicide was truly a unique and empowering experience! The slate of presenters, their background expertise and qualifications was the highlight of the conference for me as it opened my eyes to a new understanding of the homicide victimization experience in the Canadian context. I highly commend the VOH Support Society of Edmonton, their board members, coordinators, volunteers, victims and partners for their passionate dedication and thoughtfulness in demonstrating such a highly coordinated, successful, important and memorable event. The impact of this conference had even inspired discussions about the possibility of partnering with other organizations to host similar conferences in other regions across the country. Thank you very much for inviting us to be a part of this profound milestone!”*

~Christopher Ducharme, President  
British Columbia Bereavement Helpline

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