



Take it Like A Man:

*Why Men's Sexual Victimization is (Still)
Ignored in Canada's Victim Services*

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- The Men's Project is the only sexual abuse treatment centre for men in Ontario funded by the provincial Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG).
- MAG sponsored services in Ottawa & Cornwall:
 - Crisis & Support Services
 - Group Therapy
 - Community Education

Our Mission Statement:

The Men's Project strives to support men, in a process of change, with structure and integrity. We provide mental health services to men and their families in the areas of childhood trauma recovery, recent sexual assault, emotional integrity and anger management among other service areas.

- The Men's Project provides innovative counselling and educational services through a male-centered approach that honours and respects the experiences of men. Our programs are open to straight, gay and bisexual men.

How We Define Integrity

TMP promotes emotional integrity in both its programming as well as a core organizational value. We define emotional integrity as living one's life and conducting oneself in relationships of significance based on the following three premises:

- Being profoundly honest with oneself.
- Owning one's own feelings and behaviour (taking responsibility).
- Closing the emotional space with others.

How We Define Gender Equality

- TMP uses the term "gender-just" to describe our dedication to building a world of equality between men and women. We believe it is the responsibility of both sexes to take the necessary steps in this process of change.
- As an organization, we adhere to the principle of justice -- that is the fair treatment of all peoples involved.
- We are shaped by many of the principles of feminism in guiding us to this place of understanding in terms of gender equality.



Clinical Services for Men:

Men & Healing Program for Male Survivors:

Ottawa (5) Cornwall (1) (MAG sponsored)

Individual, Couple & Family Therapy:

- Ottawa: Fee for Service, Extended Insurance, Public Inquiry
- Cornwall: MAG sponsored, Public Inquiry sponsored

Group Therapy Programs:

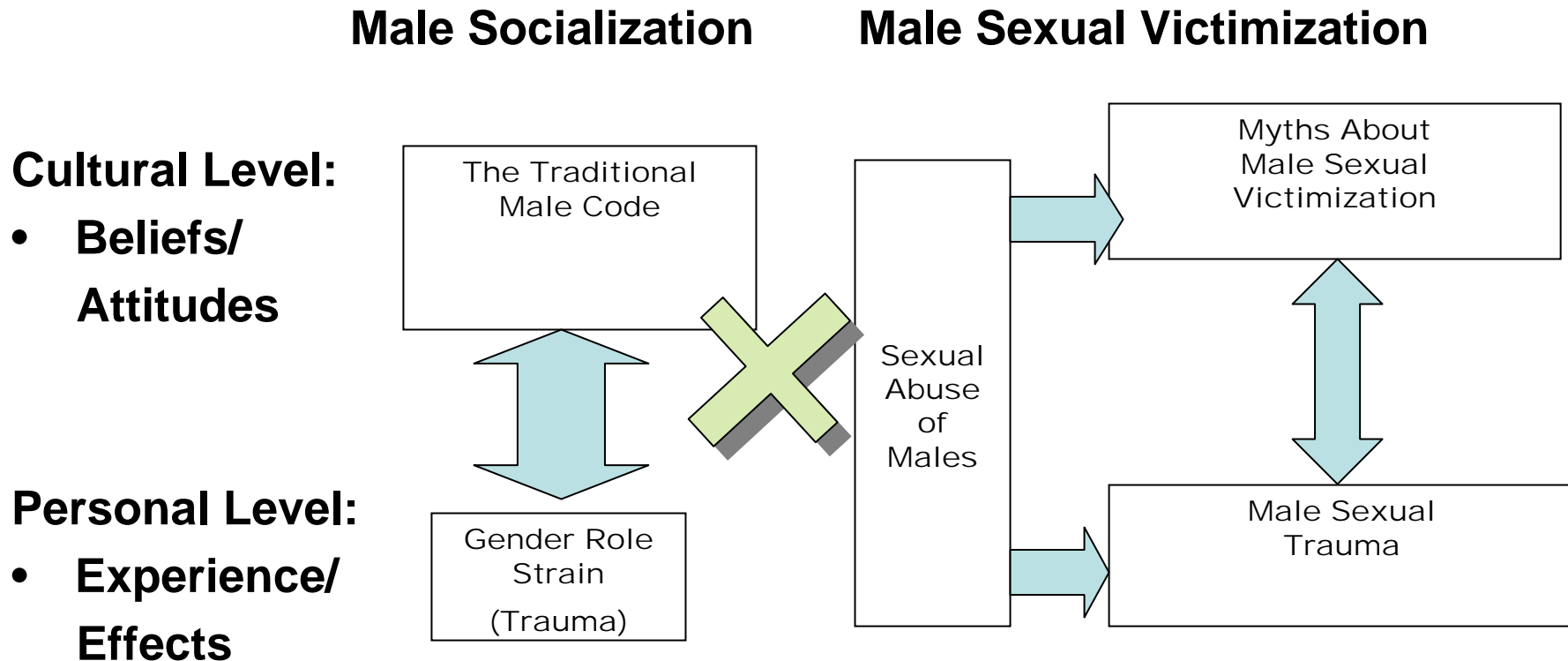
- Anger Management
- Emotional Intelligence
- The Fathering Initiative (UW sponsored)



**It Didn't Happen.
It Doesn't Matter.**

The Intersection Of Male Socialization With Male Sexual Victimization

(conceptualized by Andy Fisher, Ph D)



The “Traditional” Male Code

- The Rugged Individual
- The Big Man
- Give ‘em Hell
- No Sissy Stuff

(Adapted from D.S. David and R. Brannon, *The Forty-Nine Percent Majority: The Male Sex Role*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1976.)

Gender Role Strain

(adapted from the writings of Joseph Pleck)

Gender role strain refers to the negative effects of traditional gender socialization on individual males.

Discrepancy-Strain:

- The distress felt by a man when he fails to live up to his internalized ideal of manhood, i.e., when he experiences a discrepancy between his ideal male self and his actual self.

Trauma-Strain:

- The normative developmental and ritual traumas in male socialization.

Dysfunction-Strain:

- The negative consequences for men, and for those around them, when men successfully fulfill gender role standards that prescribe dysfunctional behaviours and support violence.

A Research Primer On Male Sexual Abuse

(compiled by Rick Goodwin, MSW RSW)

- There are differences in opinion as to the criteria for defining male sexual abuse.
- A large scale Canadian survey, the Badgley Report, found that approximately 19.5% of males under 18 were victims of sexual offences.
- Gay and bisexual men may have higher rates of child sexual abuse than straight men.

A Research Primer On Male Sexual Abuse

- Boys who are sexually abused are subjected to acts ranging from fondling to anal rape. Multiple incidents and multiple perpetrators are not uncommon.
- The most common type of sexual abuse varies from study to study.
- Perpetrators are most likely people in a position of trust outside the immediate family.
- The large majority of perpetrators are male -- approximately 80%, although some studies show a rate of female perpetration up to 40%.

A Research Primer On Male Sexual Assault

(compiled by Rick Goodwin, TMP)

- The research on male sexual assault is even weaker than the research on male sexual abuse.
- Studies suggest 7% to 17% of men experience sexual assault in their adulthood; one Canadian study of gay and bisexual men found 14%.
- Anal rape is the most common form of sexual assault.
- Many male victims of sexual assault sustain cuts and injuries to their genitals and/or anus.

A Research Primer On Male Sexual Assault

- Victims reported that they had multiple perpetrators per assault, with an average of 2.8 perpetrators per victim.
- Over 90% of the reported perpetrators of adult sexual assault are male.
- Perpetrator categories are unclear.
- Sexual assault can occur in men's, particularly gay men's, intimate relationships; three studies suggest 12% to 39%.
- Prison rape has been described by one Canadian researcher as "the most overlooked form of sexual assault." (Mathews, 1996).

Myths About Male Sexual Victimization

(compiled by Andy Fisher, Ph D from *MaleSurvivor* and Richard Gartner, Ph,D)

1. Males cannot be sexually abused or victimized.
2. Boys/youth can always say no to abuse if violence is not used. If they don't, then they must have wanted it.
3. If a male has allowed abuse, then he is a sissy or weakling.
4. If a male becomes sexually aroused, then he is an equal participant in the abuse.

Myths About Male Sexual Victimization

5. Most sexual abuse of males is perpetrated by gay men.
6. Sexual abuse turns a boy/youth gay.
7. Sexually abused boys/youth inevitably become sexually abusive men.
8. If the perpetrator is female, the boy/youth got lucky.
9. Males are less traumatized by sexual abuse than females.



From the Lens
of the
Ministry of the Attorney
General (Ontario)

Funding Barriers: Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG)

Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centres (SAC)

- Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Centres (SAC) offer a wide variety of services to victims and survivors of sexual violence.
- SAC funding is administered by the Victim Services Division as part of its commitment to provide support to victims of crime.
- 34 community-based centres across the province, including French language centres, provide a broad range of services including:
- 24-hour crisis and support line (listed locally);
- court, police and hospital accompaniment;
- supportive peer counselling services (one-to-one and group);
- public and professional education regarding the nature and extent of sexual violence;
- information and referral services.

Victims' Bill of Rights

proclaimed as law on June 11, 1996.

The Act supports and recognizes the needs and rights of victims of crime in both the criminal and civil justice system. Elements of the bill include:

- Establishing a legislated set of principles to support victims throughout the criminal justice process.
- These principles specify how victims should be treated by justice system officials at different stages of the criminal justice process. The statement of principles requires that victims:
 - *be treated with courtesy, compassion and respect for their personal dignity and privacy;*
 - *have access to information concerning services and remedies available to victims; [emphasis added]*

From the Cornwall Public Inquiry

On the issue of SAC's and services for male victims:

- “If a male victim called a SAC it was very hit and miss...they still tend to be...focused on women's services.”
- “If a male victim came forward today [in Toronto] we would hope that the police would refer them to whatever counselling service might exist...there is not dedicated men's sexual assault service...”
- Q: “And if a woman were to come forward today?”
- A: we would know exactly where to send her, yes.

From the Cornwall Public Inquiry

“I hear what you’re saying that it appears that there is little ongoing funding. There is no ongoing funding dedicated to men, male victims of sexual assault on an ongoing.”

Q: So it could end up that there may be no dedicated services for men in the province.”

A: I would hope not, but we don’t know. We don’t know. I can’t say at this stage.”

All quotes taken from the July 26, 2006 transcript. MAG representative was Ms. Sonia A. Faryna, Director, OVSS. Mr. David Bennett, counsel for The Men’s Project provided the cross-examination.



From the Lens of the Sexual Abuse/Assault Service Providers

Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Services (CASAC)

- “We are a Pan Canadian group of sexual assault centres who have come together to implement the legal, social and attitudinal changes necessary to prevent, and ultimately eradicate, rape and sexual assault.”
- “As feminists we recognize that violence against women is one of the strongest indicators of prevailing societal attitudes towards women.”
- “The intent of the Canadian Association is to act as a force for social change regarding violence against women at the individual, the institutional and the political level.”
- All CASAC activities “shall be directed toward and open to women only.”

Taken from <http://www.casac.ca/english/home.htm>

Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres

- The objective of the [OCRCC] is to work for the prevention and eradication of sexual assault, including rape. The **Coalition** works to implement legal Social and attitudinal changes. In order for women of this country to acquire the power necessary to bring about such changes, they must organize ...
- The **Coalition** recognizes that violence against women is one of the strongest indicators of prevailing societal attitudes towards women. Such attitudes stem from the unequal balance of power existing between women and men that result in rigid sex roles equating masculine behavior and aggression and dominance and feminine behavior with passivity and weakness.

Taken from their Preamble: http://www.ocrcc.ca/about_us.html

Sexual Assault Network (Ottawa)

- **SAN Mission:** SAN is committed to working towards ending sexual violence against women.
- **SAN Mandate:** SAN's mandate is to coordinate sexual assault services in the Ottawa area. SAN also provides support, information and professional development to local service providers who work in the area of sexual violence against women.
- **SAN Membership Structure:** Membership is open only to women.

[Taken from: <http://www.sanottawa.com/aboutsan.html>]

Why this Exclusion?

- Traditional Male Socialization.
- Service Bias: women are good victims, men are not.
- Historically, women's services were victim services, and men's services were offender services.
- Institutionalized feminist framework within Provincial funding structures.
- Ambivalence from women's services: fear of loss of funding, loss of voice, loss of ownership.
- Men's organizations are not (seen as) credible.

TMP Recommendations to the Cornwall Public Inquiry

...Service centres for male survivors of sexual abuse and/or sexual assault be created province-wide. These centres will need secure funding... [as well]:

- That a **training centre** be established... and partially funded by the various public institutions involved in this inquiry.
- That a **province-wide 1-800 service** for male survivors of sexual abuse and/or sexual assault be created.
- That **emergency response protocols** be established and that organizations which provide counselling and **treatment services for both male and female victims be an integral part** of that response.
- That an office and response protocol for an **Advocate for sexual abuse/assault victim services** be created. This would facilitate every victim of violence, whether male or female, having access to services...
- That a position of [provincial] **Ombudsman** for dealing with issues of sexual abuse/assault be created. If there had been a watchdog, then, perhaps, there would have been a different response by the various institutions involved [in the Cornwall tragedy].

Resources for Male Survivors and their Service Providers:

For info for male survivors, resources for counsellors and listings of Ontario counselling resources, check out the Ontario Association of Male Survivor Services:

www.malesurvivor.on.ca

For info for male survivors, including an interactive bulletin board for male survivors, check out MaleSurvivor (USA):

www.malesurvivor.org

Training Initiatives on Male Sexual Abuse/Assault and Trauma Recovery Services

To bring this training to your organization, call us: 1-877-677-6532 (Ontario) or write to:

rgoodwin@themensproject.ca

The Men's Project also has a free e-magazine called *Manifestations* that addresses issues of concern to men, their families, and their service providers. Sign up at:

www.themensproject.ca