

# BUILDING CONNECTIONS

## Supporting Community-Based Programs to Address Interpersonal Violence and Child Maltreatment

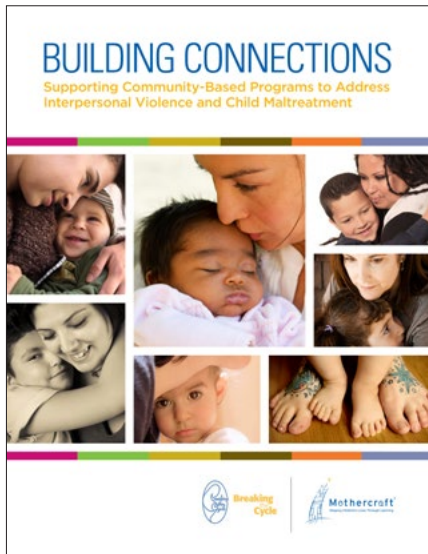


### Annual Update: September 2016 to September 2017

Over the last twelve months, we reached out to all CAPC/CPNP/AHSUNC projects in Canada to disseminate trauma-informed training resources on interpersonal violence (IPV) and child maltreatment. We also began the delivery of more intensive training to a subset of CAPC/CPNP/AHSUNC projects who applied for intensive training to facilitate and evaluate a group intervention called *Connections: A Group Intervention for Mothers and Children Experiencing Violence in Relationships*. *Connections* is a manualized intervention that helps mothers think about their past and present experiences with IPV, and how it affects their parenting and their children. This update provides a summary of our work and activities over the past year, and includes preliminary information regarding the evaluation of these activities.

# Building Connections—Phase 1 Fall 2016

Phase 1 involved national training to all CAPC/CPNP/AHSUNC projects and included the dissemination of a resource manual, and the delivery of a national training webinar:



## **Resource Manual—Building Connections: Supporting Community-Based Projects to Address Interpersonal Violence and Child Maltreatment.**

Resource Manuals were mailed to 834 CAPC/CPNP/AHSUNC projects. 177 additional manuals were requested and mailed to CAPC/CPNP/AHSUNC projects, and 135 manuals were mailed to non-CAPC/CPNP/AHSUNC agencies and organizations. The resource manual is available in English and French at [www.mothercraft.org](http://www.mothercraft.org).

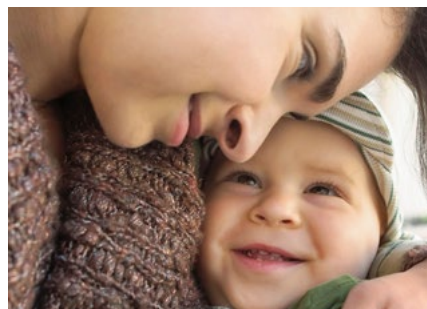
## **National Training Webinar—Building Connections: Using Trauma-Informed and Relational Approaches to Help Women and Children Experiencing Interpersonal Violence.**

The national training webinar was delivered live by Margaret Leslie, Director, Child and Family Services, Mothercraft on October 13, 2016. The webinar was delivered to **286** registrants representing CAPC/CPNP/AHSUNC projects in every Canadian province and territory. An additional **605** viewers have since watched the archived versions. After watching the national training webinar, **71%** of viewers reported an increase in awareness, **68%** reported an increase in capability and **62%** reported an increase in confidence to identify and respond to mothers and/or children experiencing family violence or child abuse.



*“Fantastic training and I love that it was done in web format as we are fairly remote and it was nice not to have to travel for training for a change.”*

*“We were very excited to receive a copy of the Building Connections Manual in the mail today! As an association dedicated to empowering individuals, supporting families, and promoting community health, we feel this literature relates directly to the work we are doing in our communities.”*



# Building Connections—Phase 2 January 2017 to March 31 2020

In Phase 2, 30 CAPC/CPNP/AHSUNC projects will receive more intensive training to facilitate and evaluate a group intervention called *Connections: A Group Intervention for Mothers and Children Experiencing Violence in Relationships*.

*Connections* is a manualized intervention that helps mothers think about their past and present experiences with IPV, and how it affects their parenting and their children.

### Applying for Intensive

**Training:** Project staff who view the national training webinar and indicate on their evaluation survey that they have an interest in more intensive training will receive *Your Starting Point Story*.

### Your Starting Point Story:

The Your Starting Point Story (YSPS) tool was developed as a self-evaluation tool for projects who indicate an interest in intensive training, and is the primary application document for the intensive training. The YSPS calls on projects to reflect on and describe their readiness to deliver the *Connections* intervention in a physically, clinically and systemically safe way. The tool asks projects to provide comprehensive information about their programs, including information related to the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the intensive training.

Examples of inclusion criteria include:

- Partnerships with child welfare agencies/child advocacy centres and women's counselling centres/shelters;
- Identification of interpersonal violence as an issue for project participants;
- Appropriate supervision structures in the project;
- Agreement to deliver the *Connections* intervention at least once per year;
- Agreement to participate in evaluation of the *Connections* evaluation;
- Agreement to participate in the community of practice.

*Building Connections* also has a commitment to achieve geographic (urban, rural, remote, northern), Indigenous, and linguistic (English and French) representation of projects selected for the intervention training. All other inclusion criteria being equal, we will select projects that promote representation along these dimensions.

*“This has been a very valuable opportunity to not only learn about the *Connections* program and how to effectively deliver the program, it has also been very helpful in observing, learning from very capable caring staff. The relationships they have with each other, participants and training participants have shown me what is possible and necessary in working effectively with clients.”*

### Connections Certified Training:

We delivered *Connections* certified training in January, March and June 2017, with the January 2017 session serving as a pilot training. The 3-1/2-day intensive face-to-face training at Breaking the Cycle focuses on trauma-informed practice, the importance of community partnerships, and delivering and evaluating *Connections*.

From January 1 – June 30 2017, we certified 25 *Connections* facilitators from 12 projects in communities in British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Ontario:

# Building Connections—Phase 2 January 2017 to March 31 2020



## ↑ January 31 - February 2 2017

- » Healthy Generations Family Support Program (CAPC), Community Living Dryden Sioux Lookout, **Sioux Lookout, ON**
- » Waterloo Region CAPC/CPNP, Carizon Family and Community Services, **Waterloo, ON**
- » Brighter Futures (CAPC) and Buns in the Oven (CPNP), Ottawa Young Parents, **Ottawa, ON**
- » Algoma CAPC/CPNP, Algoma Family Services, **Sault Ste. Marie, ON**
- » Breaking the Cycle (CAPC/CPNP), Mothercraft, **Toronto, ON**

## ↑ March 28 - 31, 2017

- » Building Healthier Babies (CPNP), Terrace Child Development Centre, **Terrace, BC**
- » Babies Best Chance (CPNP), Campbell River Family Services, **Campbell River, BC**
- » Connections Program (CAPC/CPNP), Lanark Community Programs, **Carleton Place, ON**
- » Healthy Baby and Toddler Club (CPNP), Centre for Northern Families, **Yellowknife, NWT**

## ↑ June 20 - 23, 2017

- » Kids First Association, (CAPC/CPNP), **New Glasgow, NS**
- » Child and Family Enhancement Program (CAPC), **Archerwill, SASK**
- » Family and Community Action Program, (CAPC), **Durham Region, ON**

Following the training, **96%** of the training delegates reported an increase in awareness, **92%** reported an increase in capability and **88%** reported an increase in confidence to provide the *Connections* intervention.

### Community of Practice:

Since March 8th 2017, *Building Connections* has delivered a weekly Community of Practice (CoP) meeting to: 1) provide clinical and evaluation support to the *Connections* certified facilitators, 2) provide an opportunity for facilitators to share experiences and learnings, and 3) promote and strengthen

relationships among certified facilitators.

The CoP has been well attended, with the certified facilitators indicating that they feel supported by *Building Connections* staff and connected to other facilitators across Canada.

**Replicating the *Connections* Intervention:** The *Connections* intervention has been delivered to 35 participants by 5 community-based projects. We look forward to reporting on participant data in our next annual update.

