

Gender-based violence topic for November 14 meeting

Joel Rustin, a social worker who is currently the Forensic Housing and Outreach Program Manager for Connective Support Society of Nanaimo (formerly the John Howard Society), will speak about gender-based violence in Canada and therapeutic interventions in social work practice.

Working in the social service industry for nearly 10 years, Joel has diverse experience with emergency shelters, supportive housing, community outreach and case-management, BC Correctional Institutions and Forensic Psychiatric Services. He has also been a board member with Mental Health Recovery Partners (formerly Vancouver Island Schizophrenia Society), worked in all aspects of Restorative Justice and supported individuals on crisis phone line services.

Throughout his professional experience, Joel has worked with men, women and couples experiencing gender violence, including with perpetrators of gender violence, many of whom are serving prison sentences or community probation orders for violence towards partners. He has also helped to support individuals and families navigate child separations due to household violence. "I've seen both successes and failures in my work supporting those involved with gender-based violence," he says, adding that there have been some emotional and moving cases which he is willing to share on an anonymous level.

Submitted by Sonya Felix