

Bridging the Gap between the needs of survivors of family violence and the realities of family court

This webinar took place on December 15, 2020

Speakers



Pamela Cross

Pamela Cross is a feminist lawyer; a well-known and respected expert on violence against women and the law for her work as a researcher, writer, educator and trainer. She works with women's equality and violence against women organizations across Ontario.

One of her key roles is as the Legal Director of [Luke's Place Support and Resource Centre](#) in Durham Region, where she leads the organization's provincial projects, including research, training and advocacy.

With Luke's Place, Pamela has written a number of papers on the topic of violence against women and family law. With funding from the federal Department of Justice, she led a team that conducted research into the use of family violence screening tools for family law practitioners. The final report, entitled "[What You Don't Know Can Hurt You: The importance of family violence screening tools for family law practitioners](#)", includes a draft screening tool.

In her role as Luke's Place Legal Director, Pamela is the lead trainer for [Ontario's Family Court Support Workers](#), providing both in-person and online training and support for approximately 100 frontline workers who assist abused women in family court. She recently completed the delivery of domestic violence awareness training to approximately 2,500 Legal Aid Ontario staff, community clinics and lawyers across the province. She was also Co-Chair of the Violence Against Women Roundtable, which provided guidance to the provincial government on this issue.

Pamela also works with a number of other provincial and national women's organizations, including the National Association of Women and the Law and the Canadian Council of Muslim Women.

Pamela is the 2020 recipient of the [Corry Award](#) from Queen's Law, the 2019 recipient of both the [Laura Legge Award](#) from the Law Society of Ontario and the [Guthrie Award](#) from the Law Foundation of Ontario, and a 2015 recipient of the [Attorney General's Victim Services Award of Distinction](#) for her work on the issue of violence against women. In 2006, she was awarded the [YWCA Toronto Women of Distinction](#) award for her work in the area of law reform.

To learn more visit www.pamelacross.ca or follow her on twitter @pamelacross541



Linda Baker

Dr. Linda Baker is a Psychologist, Adjunct Professor, and the Learning Director of the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children at Western University. She is proud to lead the Learning Network and the Knowledge Hub. The Learning Network translates knowledge on the continuum of gender-based violence and the Knowledge Hub facilitates a trauma- and violence-informed community of practice with Canadian researchers and practitioners conducting innovative intervention research. She has over 25 years of experience in the mental health and justice system, working with and learning from children, youth and families dealing with experiences of violence and trauma. Her direct service experience inspires and informs her research and commitment to knowledge translation through resource development and publications, knowledge exchange activities, and workshop presentations. Prior to her current roles, Dr. Baker was the Director of the Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System (London Family Court Clinic). She participates regularly on faculty teams delivering Domestic Violence Institutes throughout the United States for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and Futures Without Violence.