

The Heartbeat of the Nation conference welcomes all Aboriginal police forces and Aboriginal stand-alone police forces across Canada, interested First Nations police commissions, RCMP Divisions and Sub-Divisions, interested elders, chiefs and Metis leaders. For more information please contact:

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FAMILIES Warmth, caring and support are just three of the words that describe what families mean to most of us. However, it is not unusual for families in the 1990s to experience a few "storms." More than 25 years ago, two thirds of Canadian families included a man who worked, and a spouse that stayed at home. This is no longer true. The "traditional" model represents only 15% of all families today. It is also true that more families are breaking up today. In fact, about one third of all marriages end in divorce. This means that single-parent families now make up about 20% of all families. In 1991, over half a million Canadian families were made up of single parents with at least one child under 18 years of age living in the household.

It's a well-known fact that a single parent can carry heavy day-to-day responsibilities and pressures. Without a partner for support and sharing responsibilities, there can be some difficult times. Your Member Assistance Program understands this and can help single parents relieve some of the pressure.

Single-parent families are not the only "new" families of today. Many families are

blended, often with children from previous relationships. Also, families may no longer have the support of relatives and other traditional support systems.

While diversity enriches our society, it also creates the need for greater understanding of different attitudes toward family and the raising of children. Most of us would agree that we're in a growing time "crunch." The leisure society that was promised in the 1960s has instead become a society where we, as workers, often wonder how we'll fit everything into our day. However, many service systems still operate as they did years ago, when most families had time during the working day to attend to personal matters.

Your Member Assistance Program recognizes that time is restrictive and that's why it offers a more flexible service. Remember, all calls and consultations are voluntary and confidential.

BLOOD TASK FORCE The RCMP Blood Task Force moved to full-scale criminal investigation and seeks public assistance. The RCMP is now conducting a full-scale criminal investigation into Canada's infected blood supply. The decision came five weeks earlier than expected due to considerable progress made in the first phase of the investigation. To maintain the current momentum, the RCMP Blood Task Force is also seeking the public's assistance through a tips hotline. As part of its deliberate, step-by-step approach, the RCMP Blood Task Force is currently focussing on systems and processes used between 1983 and 1987. Individuals who have information about the blood distribution system and the decision-making process during that period are urged to call the hotline.

The hotline number is **1 (888) 530-1111**. It will be staffed Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., eastern standard time. Callers will be asked to provide their name,