

McCain

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"Family violence is a cancer in society with many different faces. The treatments may be different in each case, and these are the questions for which we are looking for answers. Until now we've been applying band-aid solutions to these problems."

McCain quoted a Statistics Canada figure that one out of four women is a victim of abuse serious enough to be considered a criminal offense.

The foundation will put its half of the donated salary into the fundraising goal set at \$2.5 million to be reached at the end of the five-year period.

McCain said that goal has already reached the \$2-million mark.

"With my salary, that'll give them a boost," she said.

The research centre, under the grant's stipulations, will have to wait until the end of the grant before it can access its half.

Ericson explained that publicity arising from McCain's donation has augmented interest for grants from the foundation.

"We're getting applications for funding from across the country," she said.

Ericson was quick to point out that the Lieutenant-Governor's salary is not the only source of funding that McCain has brought to the foundation.

"Her huge contribution is the contacts she, and her husband

have across the country," she said, referring to the role the McCain's have had in securing corporate donations.

"They're big movers and shakers," Ericson added.

"It takes a lot of selling," McCain admitted. "You have to keep pounding the pavement."

But she said the UNB-based centre is on the cutting edge of this type of research and education.

"Our centre is different. It is a partnership between a university and a community group. Most universities these days have their own financial concerns," McCain said. "This introduces a whole new profile to UNB."

When asked what her role is, McCain believes she should help society.

"A Lieutenant-Governor should be using the office to do something meaningful; to improve the quality of life," she said, "I'll use my position to add more weight to increasing the awareness of the problem of family violence."

The research centre, which represents the Atlantic provinces, is currently funding eight research projects related to family violence, such as dating violence in high school, and studies into family violence and religion, immigrant women, women in transition and others.

McCain said a big project

underway is a 30-year multi-generational longitudinal study, which received a \$28,000-grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to help in its design.

"Active work will start in a year," she said.

Rina Arseneault, Associate Director of the centre, said there are currently two graduate students employed in research. This number varies depending upon projects.

Other than research, the centre is committed to education on family violence related issues.

An interdisciplinary course on family violence issues which was offered last year will not be available this term because of a lack of an instructor.

Arseneault believes it may be offered in January, however.

The Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation was named after the New Brunswick woman who most exemplified the essence of the foundation.

"She believed strongly in social reform, justice, reform of the penal system and women's rights," said McCain.

McQueen Fergusson practiced law in an era dominated by men. She was the first woman to sit on Fredericton City Council in the late 1950's. She was later the first female speaker of this country's Senate in the 1970's.

McQueen Fergusson currently lives in Fredericton.

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