

The school system also pays a price for the violence that children witness or experience in their homes. Kitty O'Callaghan, President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, described to the Committee the impact of domestic violence on students' behaviour in the classroom.

Children who witness violence usually directed at their mother experience an insidious form of child abuse. Most bear life-long scars from watching their mothers being abused. They become part of a conspiracy of silence. They feel robbed of the affection and support of their mothers, and they exhibit physiological symptoms similar to those children who are physically abused....the disordered behaviours caused by this trauma interfere with students' education and their lives at school. Their experiences preclude any pretense of normal growth and development. (4:10)

The Committee learned from Gene Krawetz, of the Provincial Association of Transition Houses of Saskatchewan, that recognition of the effect of violence on children prompted the Saskatchewan government to incorporate into the definition of children in need of protection in its *Family Services Act* "a child who has been exposed to violence in the family" (5:39).

As noted earlier, violence against women also places a heavy burden on resources available in the community. Many wife assault victims have no independent source of income; when they leave the marital home they are often in need of subsidized housing, legal assistance, and a plethora of social services for themselves and their children. The criminal justice system, including police services, courts and corrections, incurs significant costs in responding to violence against women. In her 1987 report on wife battering in Canada, Linda MacLeod estimated that the total cost of police intervention and related support in wife abuse incidents in 1980 was \$32 million. This figure is not surprising, given the substantial demand on police resources that results from wife assault. By way of example, the witness from the Montreal Urban Community Police Department, John Kousik, told the Committee that since 1987 the Department has handled 19,817 cases of family related violence. This number includes criminal as well as non-criminal incidents (10:8).

In her testimony before the Committee, Dr. Glenda Simms, President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, identified a further cost of abuse borne by women.

Women's fear is perhaps the most pervasive and widespread cost of violence. More than 50% of women in urban areas are afraid to walk on their own streets at night. It is an intolerable situation when women cannot use and enjoy facilities for which they have paid with their taxes. The full range of women's fears extend beyond physical and sexual assault and includes the fear of being unprotected by the justice system, the fear of racism, and the fear for their children's safety, and fear of living in a violent society. (5:8-9)