“Animal abuse does not inevitably lead to interpersonal violence, but we must come to a better understanding of the circumstances in which it does – for the sake of both animals and people.”

-Keynote speaker, Dr. Frank Ascione, PhD, Scholar-in Residence, University of Denver and author of Animal abuse and intimate partner violence: Emerging research on pet abuse in the lives of women who are battered
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Violence against animals and violence against people are not distinct and separate problems. Rather, they are part of a larger pattern of violent crimes that often co-exist. Research shows a significant correlation between animal cruelty and domestic violence, the physical and sexual abuse of children, sexual assault and other violent crimes. This relationship between violence against animals and people is commonly known as the violence link, and it encompasses a range of prevention and intervention practices that aim to reduce vulnerability in animals and human beings.

On December 5-6, 2017, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) hosted Canada’s first-ever national conference on the violence link in the nation’s capital. The 2017 CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference was a ground-breaking event that brought together 204 professionals from 10 key sectors to learn from sought-after experts about the latest research and promising new practices to advance Canada’s response to the violence link.

Guided by an advisory committee comprised of CFHS staff and member societies, industry experts and the lead partners of the conference (see page 7 for a full list), the 2017 CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference explored how law enforcement, social services, community resources, municipal/provincial/federal governments, animal welfare organizations and veterinarians can work together to better address the violence link in their respective fields. The connections that were made at this innovative conference – between sectors, organizations and individuals – have kick-started much-needed national action on the violence link in Canada.

CONFERENCE GOALS

1. Increase focus and cross-disciplinary attention on the link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence, including the crimes of domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, sexual assault and other violent crimes.

2. Address the commonalities between vulnerable people and vulnerable animals and explore intervention programs to reduce vulnerability and violence.

3. Explore how enforcement, social services, municipal/provincial/federal agencies, community resources, the justice system, veterinarians and animal welfare organizations can work together to better recognize animal abuse in their work and more effectively screen for animal welfare issues.
CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The 2017 CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference set seven main objectives for participant learning and networking:

1. An understanding of the roots of animal abuse and neglect and the connection of such crimes to interpersonal and societal violence.
2. An ability to identify the indicators of animal abuse and the steps to investigation and prosecution of these crimes.
3. An ability to identify the indicators of interpersonal violence and the steps to responding.
4. Skills to examine the correlation between human vulnerability and animal vulnerability.
5. The opportunity to explore community-level partnerships involving prosecutors, animal welfare organizations, social service providers, veterinarians, municipal/provincial/federal governments, the courts and law enforcement agencies.
6. The opportunity to create new networks and relationships that will enhance efforts toward ending violence.
7. The opportunity to found a national coalition for cross-sectoral collaboration toward ending violence against vulnerable communities.

A CRUCIAL STEP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE

As the organizers of this conference, CFHS aimed to increase access to services by working together across 10 key sectors to deepen awareness of the violence link – which will lead to safer communities, more effective law enforcement and more relevant and holistic social services. Understanding the link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence has provided Canadian professionals who are engaged in addressing and preventing abuse with a broader framework for thinking about and approaching their work.

The 2017 CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference gave attendees a deeper understanding of how the co-investigation of animal and human abuse can allow for early intervention and improved outcomes for both human beings and animals. By creating effective cross-reporting relationships between animal welfare and human welfare agencies, we are addressing the welfare of the entire family unit – animals included.

The multi-stakeholder nature of the conference was crucial in establishing next steps in the fight against violence and abuse in Canada, allowing for the creation of a nationwide cross-sector network that is now equipped to recognize the patterns that threaten humans and animals in our society. The range of expertise in the room led to powerful insights and innovative strategies that will advance our collective work.

When asked about their experience of the event, attendees of the 2017 CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference reported a 100 per cent satisfaction rate and affirmed that we are on the right track in our work to take action on the link between animal abuse and human abuse.
Those who work on the front lines of law enforcement and violence prevention know that there is a demonstrated link between human and animal abuse. Over the last decade, this correlation has come to be known as the “violence link”, and we’re starting to understand just how reliably animal abuse can predict future violence against human beings.

A layperson might be tempted to dismiss the link between the abuse of humans and animals as incidental, occasional or unproven. In fact, multiple research studies conducted across North America have confirmed that the co-occurrence of these crimes represents an established pattern. In one of the key studies on this topic, researchers found that animal abuse was more clearly correlated to family violence than poor mental health, drinking or drug abuse (Zorza, J. (Spring 2010). Dealing with Animal Abuse to Alleviate Family Violence. Family & Intimate Partner Violence Quarterly. Vol. 2 (Issue 4), page 345).

Law enforcement agencies in the United States have recently undertaken a data-tracking project that uses the violence link to their strategic advantage, collecting and analyzing data on incidents of animal abuse via the national FBI database. Its stated goal is to prevent violence against animals from escalating to interpersonal violence. This kind of tracking is effective because animal abuse is a useful predictor of interpersonal crimes, such as domestic violence and serial murder.

Law enforcement officials, district attorneys and other allied professionals in the United States have been examining the violence link for almost a decade, having formed The National Link Coalition in 2008. The coordinator of the project, Phil Arkow, says: “When animals are abused, people are at risk. When people are abused, animals are at risk.” This is a phenomenon we can no longer ignore if we are to responsibly manage public safety and social service delivery in our communities.
Recently, Canada’s work on the link has started to gain momentum and public attention. In 2015, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies launched a new program called The National Centre for the Prosecution of Animal Cruelty (NCPAC), which provides Canadian Crown Prosecutors with resources that support the successful prosecution of animal cruelty cases.

NCPAC was created in partnership with Crown prosecutors from across Canada, as well as allied professionals from SPCAs, humane societies and the veterinary community. Through NCPAC, these groups have the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with animal law experts to ensure that the most up-to-date and innovative information is available and accessible to the prosecution community.

One of NCPAC’s aims is to educate law enforcement professionals about the violence link and to find ways to apply this knowledge toward improving outcomes for both people and animals. To that end, NCPAC hosted a Crown prosecutor training day in conjunction with the Violence Link Conference in Ottawa on December 4, 2017.

Dr. Michelle Ward MD, Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario, speaks on child maltreatment and animal cruelty.
Lead partners were recruited from key sectors to sit on the 2017 CFHS Canadian Violent Link Conference steering committee in order to publicly lend their support to the conference. Our lead partners were chosen to represent sectors that we knew were key to whole system change in Canada. These lead partners were asked to help in agenda planning, identifying speakers and conference promotion.

The City of Ottawa is responsible for the provision of vital public services in Canada’s capital region, as well as the enforcement of municipal bylaws.

The Ottawa Police Service is committed to protect the safety and security of their communities. Their vision is to be a trusted partner in community safety.

The Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of organizations and individuals in the City of Ottawa and surrounding regions that is working to end violence against women.

211 Ontario is an award-winning helpline and website that provides information on and referrals to community, social, health-related and government services in Ontario.
In all, 204 delegates attended the 2017 CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference (164 women and 40 men). Below is a breakdown of sector distribution and home province for attendees.

**SECTOR DISTRIBUTION**

- Police: 24%
- Anti-Violence: 15%
- Anti-Violence: 15%
- Animal Welfare: 23%
- Crown Prosecutors/Government/Law: 15%
- Social Workers: 7%
- Vets/Vet Techs: 10%
- Other: 6%

The policing sector was most heavily represented at the conference (24% of overall attendees), followed by the animal welfare sector (23%), the anti-violence sector (15%) and Crown prosecutors/government/law (15%). Note that some sector categories above have been consolidated for ease of reporting.

As expected for a first-time conference, a large proportion of our attendees (67%) hailed from the province in which the event took place (Ontario). Alberta was second most represented at the conference (10%) and Quebec was third (6%). See the figure below for full information.

**HOME PROVINCE DISTRIBUTION**

- Ontario: 67%
- Alberta: 10%
- Quebec: 6%
- US: 1%
- British Columbia: 5%
- Saskatchewan: 1%
- Manitoba: 4%
- New Brunswick: 3%
- Newfoundland and Labrador: 1%
- Nova Scotia: 1%
ATTENDEES: IDENTIFYING THE MOST URGENT ISSUES

Conference attendees identified the following as the most urgent issues we need to address in Canada related to the violence link:

- The need for education across sectors on how to recognize the links between interpersonal violence and animal cruelty, with specific reference to under-education of all players in the justice system
- Integration of animal welfare into cross-sectoral, coordinated domestic violence responses
- Systems and funding for fostering the pets of those using violence against women response services.
- The issue of sexual violence against animals, women and children
- The structural abandonment of our homeless population and their animals
- Bystanders: those who are able to act and report violence but do not
- The need for greater collaboration across sectors
- The need for legislation that would require all animal professionals to report suspected animal abuse or neglect (similar to section 68 of the Child Welfare Act)
- The need for standardized protocols between mental health, child welfare and animal welfare agencies
• A need for greater awareness within the anti-violence sector about the violence link and a need to start asking questions about animal abuse (e.g. during intake) to address the current low profile of animal abuse in the sector
• The need to educate/inform the general public about the violence link
• The need for early intervention with troubled youth and perpetrators who commit acts of animal cruelty in order to foster empathy
• Lack of reporting of animal cruelty
• The need for better statistics and evidence-based Canadian research (as a precursor to getting the violence link on provincial/territorial and national agendas)

Overall, conference attendees were deeply engaged with the subject matter, eager to learn and share new information, excited about insights from other sectors that pertained to their work and ready to take action to improve Canada’s response to the violence link.
RESULTS

Feedback from participants consistently pointed to the need for sectors to work together to bridge the gap between knowledge and action, formulate systems for training and communication on the violence link and create a systemic response to the violence link that includes legislation, standard protocols, reporting and tracking across all sectors.

At the conference, attendees identified several barriers to cross-sector collaboration:

- Lack of cohesion between organizations – the silo effect
- Lack of financial resources
- Recognition of service/enforcement gaps
- Trouble reaching resistant or poorly-informed organizations

**ACTIONS COMING OUT OF THE CONFERENCE:**

1. Ten volunteers have put their names forward to begin building a National Violence Link Coalition in Canada.

2. A working group has been established by police officers in attendance at the conference to create changes in law enforcement databases that will allow them to capture and report animal abuse information.

3. Violence against women shelters have committed to reviewing shelter intake protocols to determine which shelters currently accept pets and to ensure that this information is listed on their websites.

4. Delegates committed to share everything they learned at the conference with their respective organizations. The Conference Steering Committee is looking at local and regional information sharing networks and opportunities in the lead-up to the next Canadian Violence Link Conference. The Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals will feature our Link Conference keynote speaker Dr. Frank Ascione at their own forthcoming conference to talk about the violence link and how threat assessment practitioners can take action on these issues.

5. There was a commitment from attendees to work with local and provincial/territorial governments to help elevate the profile of the violence link and to establish sufficient resources to do the work.

6. The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association committed to communicating with its members about the professional veterinary responsibility to report animal abuse.
RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS:

1. Integrate the violence link into the response systems of women’s shelters and anti-violence associations across Canada by providing a defined set of policies and procedures, including intake protocols, communication protocols and referral processes.

2. Create a set of standard protocols on addressing the violence link, which would be shared between mental health, child welfare, domestic violence and animal welfare agencies.

3. Create a national sheltering system for women and their pets, including a funding solution, new shelters and methods for enhancing current shelters to include pets.

4. Update federal and provincial legislation to better recognize the links between animal abuse and violence against humans.

5. Design and deliver training on the violence link for all levels of law enforcement in Canada – RCMP, provincial, municipal and animal protection officers.

6. Design and deliver training on the violence link for sexual assault support centres.

7. Create a public outreach campaign on the violence link that would make the information more accessible and raise awareness in the general public.

8. Form a National Violence Link Coalition in Canada, with representatives from all of the key sectors. This would include launching a central database of organizations, convening local conferences and organizing the next national conference.

9. Identify key areas of data deficiency and set a national research agenda with funding to encourage more Canadian data and evaluation on the violence link.

10. Assess the current reporting and tracking systems and determine how to better integrate animal cruelty considerations into these systems, including Statistics Canada, Major Case Management, Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System, Threat Assessment, HUB/COR (Centre of Responsibility) models and Animal Cruelty Offender Database.
THE IMPACT HAS ALREADY BEGUN

Within a month of our ground-breaking Canadian Violence Link Conference, we began seeing progress in how professionals are caring for the most vulnerable members of society.

On January 1, 2018, two police officers in a major Canadian city responded to a call that a family pet had been stabbed. The officers determined the animal, a puppy, urgently needed treatment and transported the pet to a nearby veterinary hospital. Thanks to the expert training they received at our conference in December, they made the connection that a person in the home might be a victim of domestic violence. The officers investigated further and formed reasonable grounds that partner abuse had occurred. A suspect was subsequently charged with numerous Criminal Code offences – including two animal cruelty charges.

We cannot name the police force or the location since the charges are pending before a court. However, in part due to the knowledge gained from the CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference, all of the family members (both human and animal) in this instance were spared further abuse, and a life may have been saved.

The outcome of this case might have been very different if CFHS had not held this conference on the violence link. If the police in this case had not looked at the family holistically like they did, the abuse against the puppy in question might have continued. Thankfully, their increased awareness of the violence link helped the puppy and his human companion receive the help they both needed.

What would it look like if the violence link was an integrated part of your work?
### Tuesday, December 5, 2017

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast and Registration</td>
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<td>Room: 118 CDE</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>Room: 118 CDE [45 mins]</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY:</strong> The Roots of Animal Abuse and Neglect and the Connection of Such Crimes to Interpersonal and Societal Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DR. FRANK ASCIONE, PhD, Scholar-in-Residence, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver</td>
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<td>Room: 118 CDE [90 mins]</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Networking Break</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Room: 118 CDE</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 AM</td>
<td><strong>Silo Busting:</strong> Reaching Across Sectoral Divides to Activate Our Work on the Violence Link</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BARBARA CARTWRIGHT, CEO, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies</td>
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<td>Room: 118 CDE [60 mins]</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td>Lunch (Open discussion for individual sectors)</td>
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<td>Room: 118 CDE</td>
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#### Track Sessions

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:15 PM</td>
<td><strong>Recognizing Animal Abuse</strong> Room: 106 C</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investigation and Prosecution of Animal Abuse and Neglect 101</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ALEX JANSE, Crown Counsel, Ministry of Justice, Government of British Columbia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MARCIE MORIARTY, Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, British Columbia SPCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
<td><strong>Recognizing Interpersonal and Domestic Violence</strong> Room: 106 D</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Understanding Lethal Risks Associated with Domestic Violence Toward Keeping Women, Families and Pets Safer</td>
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<td>TRACY PORTEOUS, Executive Director, Ending Violence Association of BC</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Determining Psychological Suffering in Cases of Animal Cruelty Using Circumstantial Evidence and FEASAC</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>DR. REBECCA LEDGER, BSc (Hons) MSc PhD FRSB, Animal Behaviour &amp; Welfare Scientist</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 PM</td>
<td>Networking Break</td>
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<td>Room: 118 CDE</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td><strong>PANEL DISCUSSION:</strong> Cross-Sector Collaboration to Better Address High-Risk Interpersonal Violence and Animal Cruelty</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MARCIE MORIARTY, Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, British Columbia SPCA</td>
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<td>TRACY PORTEOUS, Executive Director, Ending Violence Association of BC</td>
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<td>OTHER PANELIST TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15 PM</td>
<td>End of Day Closing Remarks</td>
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WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2017

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Room 118 CDE</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Ceremony: The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women</td>
<td>Room 118 CDE  [45 mins]</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY:</strong> Beyond the Violence Link</td>
<td>Room 118 CDE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DR. AMY FITZGERALD, PhD, Associate Professor, Criminology, University of Windsor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DR. MICHELLE LEM, DVM MSc MSW Candidate, Founder &amp; Director, Community Veterinary Outreach</td>
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<td>Room 118 CDE [90 mins]</td>
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<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Networking Break</td>
<td>Room 118 CDE</td>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>TRACK SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Prevention</strong></td>
<td>Room 106 C</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Threat Assessment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DONNA WATSON-ELLIOT, Victim Crisis Management, Ottawa Police Services</td>
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<td>Room: 106 C</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Increasing Veterinary Recognition and Reporting of Animal Crimes</td>
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<td>DR. MARGARET DOYLE, BSc MVB MSc MRCVS, Forensic Veterinarian, Horizon Veterinary Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch (Open discussions focused on each province or territory)</td>
<td>Room 118 CDE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>PLENARY:</strong> Criminal Behaviour and the Links to Animal Abuse</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CARL SESELY, Profiler, Behavioural Sciences Unit, Royal Canadian Mounted Police</td>
<td>[75 mins]</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 PM</td>
<td>Networking Break</td>
<td>Room 118 CDE</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Catalyzing Action: From Problems to Solutions</td>
<td>Room 118 CDE  [60 mins]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BARBARA CARTWRIGHT, CEO, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Conference Closing Remarks</td>
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What follows is a round-up of all the speakers who presented at the 2017 CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference. The speakers appear in alphabetical order, starting with the plenary speakers.

**Dr. Frank Ascione**  
PhD, Scholar-in-Residence, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver  
Dr. Frank Ascione is an internationally-renowned researcher and author who has published numerous articles on the development of antisocial and prosocial behaviour in children. He has co-edited two books: Cruelty to Animals and Interpersonal Violence: Readings in Research and Application (1998), Child Abuse, Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse: Linking the Circles of Compassion for Prevention and Intervention (1998), and authored Safe Havens for Pets: Guidelines for Programs Sheltering Pets for Women Who Are Battered, Children and Animals: Exploring the Roots of Kindness and Cruelty was published in 2005 by Purdue University Press (the book has also been translated into Japanese and Italian editions). The International Handbook of Animal Abuse and Cruelty: Theory, Research and Application, edited by Dr. Ascione, was published in May 2008. In September 2010, he was awarded a $1.5 million grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Waltham Foundation to study children exposed to intimate partner violence and to animal abuse. Dr. Ascione was selected to receive the 2001 Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations and the International Society for Anthrozoology. Dr. Ascione served as the inaugural American Humane Endowed Chair and Executive Director of the Institute for Human-Animal Connection at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work (UD GSSW) from September 2009 until June 2012. He is currently a Scholar-in-Residence at the UD GSSW.

**Dr. Michelle Lem**  
DVM MSc MSW Candidate, Founder and Director, Community Veterinary Outreach  
Dr. Michelle Lem is a 2001 graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), and the founder of Community Veterinary Outreach, a registered charity with programs across Canada that improve the health of homeless individuals and their pets through a “One Health” model of care. By offering human health services and health education alongside preventative veterinary care, Community Veterinary Outreach provides innovative access to both veterinary and human health care for at-risk populations. Michelle holds a MSc in population medicine from OVC through her study of the effects of pet ownership on street-involved youth. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals and academic textbooks. Michelle is an Ashoka Fellow, serves on the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association’s Animal Welfare Committee and is currently pursuing her MSW degree at Carleton University.

**Carl Sesely**  
Profiler, Behavioural Sciences Unit, Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Carl Sesely is a Staff Sergeant with the RCMP, posted to the Behavioural Sciences Branch in Ottawa. He is in charge of the Profiling Unit and has been a member of the RCMP for 32 years. He spent 15 years in the lower mainland of British Columbia, where he worked in uniform general duty policing and as a Major Crime Investigator. Carl is a certified Criminal Geographic Profile and Threat Evaluation Specialist. Among the many duties he performs, Carl is frequently involved in mentoring police officers from agencies across Canada, as well as internationally.
Barbara Cartwright
CEO, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies

An award-winning leader in animal welfare, conservation and education, Barbara has extensive experience in developing and facilitating relationships with governments, corporations and NGOs. She has established community-based companion animal welfare programs, created BC’s first grizzly bear rehabilitation program and contributed to the protection of the endangered right whale. Barbara has drafted, consulted on and secured amendments to provincial and federal legislation, including updates to the Criminal Code, the Migratory Bird Act and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. Barbara has advised some of the top organizations in the world on animal welfare policy and is consulted by all political parties on animal welfare issues. As the CEO of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, Barbara convenes and represents the largest animal welfare community in Canada, working to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection and promote the humane treatment of all animals. Since taking on this role in 2011, Barbara has launched the annual CFHS National Animal Welfare Conference, the National Centre for the Prosecution of Animal Cruelty and spearheaded the first empirical sector-wide research project on humane societies and SPCAs.

Dayna Desmarais
President, SafePet Ottawa

In 2012, Dayna opened a pet sitting company focused on providing the highest standards of care to all animals in the Ottawa area. She then began an apprenticeship studying canine behaviour science in a more hands-on approach. While making great personal accomplishments in those fields, she also completed courses from Duke University in Canine Emotion & Cognition, as well as at the University of Edinburgh in Animal Welfare and Behaviour.

The year 2013 sparked the beginning of Dayna’s involvement with SafePet Ottawa, where she sat on the Board as their Vice President for 3 years before being voted in as their President in 2017. It was through this experience that she learned more about the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. It became apparent to her that more needed to be done to raise awareness of the link between domestic abuse and animal abuse.

The inspiration and motivation to make a difference for the treatment of animals came not only through Dayna's love for them, but also through her mother’s. Dayna’s mom inspires her every day to do more, to be better and to embody the true attributes of an animal advocate. Because of her mother’s hard work to help rescue and rehabilitate animals throughout Dayna’s childhood, she has been blessed with the passion and drive to do the same.

Dr. Margaret Doyle
BSc MVB MSc MRCVS, Forensic Veterinarian, Horizon Veterinary Group

Dr. Margaret Doyle graduated from the University College Dublin in 2009 before moving to Calgary to practice in small animal primary care. She began working with animal protection officers from the Calgary Humane Society in 2010 and has since completed a Masters in Veterinary Forensics through the University of Florida to help address a need for better veterinary evidence and involvement in animal abuse cases. She currently consults with multiple law enforcement agencies in Alberta on animal abuse and neglect files and focuses on improving inter-agency cooperation. Dr. Doyle has worked on hundreds of cases, from crime scene analysis to necropsies to providing expert witness testimony at trial. She is passionate about increasing the awareness of the connection between animal abuse and domestic and interpersonal violence as a means to combat violence of all kinds in society.

Mark Horton
High Risk Offenders, Ottawa Police Service

Detective Mark Horton is completing his twenty-first year with the Ottawa Police Service. Prior to joining the Ottawa Police Service, Det. Horton served with the Correctional Service of Canada at the Joyceville Institution and Springhill Institution. Since becoming a police officer, Det. Horton has worked in the areas of criminal investigations, community services, traffic enforcement, and with the High Risk Offender Management Unit. Det. Horton also served a 9-month tour in Afghanistan, as an Ottawa Police officer, training the Afghan National Police. Det. Horton is presently seconded to the RCMP and involved in the Threat Assessment Understudy Program with the RCMP’s Behavioural Sciences Unit.

Alex Janse
Crown Counsel, Ministry of Justice, Government of British Columbia

Alex Janse was called to the Bar in 2004. She joined the Kamloops Crown Counsel office in 2005. She has been Regional Animal Cruelty Administrative Crown for the Interior and Kootenays since 2006 and Animal Cruelty Resource Counsel for British Columbia since 2011. In 2016, she received an award from CFHS for Leadership and Innovation in Animal Cruelty Prosecution. She has prosecuted more than 100 animal cruelty files.
Julie S. Lalonde
Campaign Manager, Draw the Line Campaign

Julie S. Lalonde is an internationally-recognized women's rights advocate and public speaker. She works with various organizations dedicated to ending sexual violence, engaging bystanders and building communities of support. Julie is a frequent media commentator on women's issues, and her work has appeared on Al Jazeera, CBC's The National, The Globe and Mail, TVO's The Agenda, FLARE magazine and more. She is the site director of Hollaback! Ottawa and the manager of Draw the Line.ca, a provincial anti-sexual violence campaign funded by the province of Ontario. Julie has been named to numerous lists, including the Governor General’s Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case.

Dr. Rebecca Ledger
BSc(Hons) MSc PhD HRSB, Animal Behaviour and Welfare Scientist

Dr. Rebecca Ledger is a British Columbia-based animal behaviour and animal welfare scientist. Rebecca teaches animal behaviour, welfare and law at Langara College, runs a consultancy that provides expertise to local governments, humane organizations, veterinarians and pet owners and writes an animal welfare column for the Vancouver Sun.

In recent years, Rebecca has pioneered the use of behavioural evidence in cases where animals have suffered psychologically. Having been retained on 40+ cases to date, the process she has developed has allowed humane organizations to successfully gain warrants, lay charges and prosecute cruelty cases involving dogs and cats, often in the absence of any physical evidence.

Rebecca has a BSc(Hons) in Biology from the University of London; a Master's degree in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare from the University of Edinburgh, where she studied farm, zoo, wild, laboratory and companion animals; a Doctorate in Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare from Brunel University; and is a Fellow of the Society of Biology.

Marcie Moriarty
Chief Prevention and Enforcement Officer, British Columbia SPCA

With separate degrees in Animal Biology and Law, Marcie Moriarty draws on all aspects of her background and education as head of the BC SPCA's Prevention and Enforcement Department. Marcie was called to the bar in May 2003 and went on to practice civil litigation. Her passion for animal welfare and advocacy soon led her to a career with the BC SPCA in 2005 as General Manager of the Society's Cruelty Investigations Department. During her time at the BC SPCA, Marcie has presented to numerous animal welfare and law students on the subject of animal cruelty law and co-taught an animal law class at UBC Law school. In 2012, Marcie took on her current role leading a department that combines cruelty investigations, stakeholder relations and scientific programs.

Tracy Porteous
Executive Director, Ending Violence Association of BC

Tracy Porteous is a Registered Clinical Counsellor who, for 35 years, has been actively involved in a leadership capacity developing tools, resources, programs, collaborative strategies and delivering training to many sectors related to sexual assault, intimate partner violence and child abuse.

Tracy is a three-time Governor General of Canada medal recipient, the most recent in 2014 where she was honoured with the LGG medal in recognition of the Persons Case for “exemplary contributions towards the equality of women in Canada”.

She was a member of BC’s 2016 Domestic Violence Death Review Panel, was a member of the 2010 DV Death Review panel, and has testified in front of federal Parliamentary committees related to violence against women, the Coroner Inquest into the murders of Sunny Park and her family, and recently assisted the Canadian Chiefs of Police with the development of national best practices related to IPV.
In 2012, Tracy attended the United Nation’s 57th Commission on the Status of Women in New York as an official delegate from Canada and spoke at a global session about prevention of violence against women.

In 2011, Tracy was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Child and Youth Representative of BC, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, after launching the groundbreaking Be More Than A Bystander: Break the Silence on Violence Against Women campaign with the BC Lions Football Club.

Tracy is the Executive Director of the Ending Violence Association of BC, a Provincial Association that supports 240 anti-violence programs across BC that specialize in responding to sexual and domestic violence, child abuse and stalking. She is also the Co-Chair of the Ending Violence Association of Canada, the national entity that is working with the CFU on the development and implementation of its new national Violence Against Women Policy.

Tracy is regularly invited on CBC radio, CFAX, CKRN, BBC TV, CTV Global BC TV and various other media outlets as a subject matter expert on issues related to gender-based violence.

Dr. Michelle Ward
MD FAAP FRCPC, Division Head, Child and Youth Protection, Department of Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa, Vice President, Child and Youth Maltreatment Section, Canadian Paediatric Society.

Dr. Michelle Ward is a pediatrician and Head of the Division of Child and Youth Protection at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). She is an Associate Professor at the University of Ottawa, a Clinical Investigator at the CHEO Research Institute and Vice President of the Child and Youth Maltreatment Section of the Canadian Paediatric Society. She is certified in pediatrics in Canada and the United States and is Board Certified in Child Abuse Pediatrics (U.S.). Dr. Ward’s clinical work involves the medical assessment and management of children with possible injuries or effects of child maltreatment. Her teaching, research, advocacy and academic interests include medical aspects of child abuse, care of children involved with the child welfare system, education of professionals and other issues for vulnerable populations.

Kia Rainbow
Executive Director, Interval House of Ottawa

Kia Rainbow is the Executive Director of Interval House of Ottawa, a thirty-bed shelter for women and children fleeing violence. She has worked in the area of violence against women (VAW) for over twenty-five years and in that time has researched, developed, implemented, managed and evaluated numerous VAW programs.

Today, Kia is putting her energies into creating an innovative and groundbreaking animal co-housing program at Interval House of Ottawa. The animal housing area will support women and children fleeing violence to bring their loved family pets into the shelter with them. Numerous studies explain why women who are bonded to their companion animals may choose to remain in violent homes in order to keep their pets safe. As well, allowing women and children to take their pets with them eliminates their need to return to the abusive home to protect their pets from the abusers’ calculated retaliation.

Donna Watson-Elliot
Victim Crisis Management, Ottawa Police Service

Donna Watson-Elliot is a manager, counsellor and educator. She is currently the Manager of the Ottawa Police Service Victim Crisis Team, where she has worked for the past 20 years. She has 27 years of crisis and trauma counseling experience working with victims of crime and tragic circumstances and has worked extensively with survivors of violence. She completed her Graduate degree from the University Of Ottawa Faculty Of Education with a concentration in counseling. She also possesses a Honours in Social Work from Carleton University and an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Ottawa. She is currently working towards her Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management at Algonquin College.
Want to learn more about the 2017 CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference? Access session abstracts and key learnings from conference presentations by visiting our CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference website here: https://clc.cfhs.ca/2017

Many of the speakers from the 2017 CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference have generously agreed to share the slides from their presentations, which can be found here: https://clc.cfhs.ca/2017

While you’re on the site, read up on the work of our inspiring speakers from the 2017 conference here: https://clc.cfhs.ca/speakerスポットligths

To view more photos from the 2017 CFHS Canadian Violence Link Conference, go here: https://clc.cfhs.ca/link_2017_photos

Dr. Michelle Lem, Director of Community Veterinary Outreach, speaks on Connecting Our Collective Vulnerability and the Human-Animal Bond.
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