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Welcome to the first issue of Clinic Chronicles, London Family Court Clinic's e-newsletter.

Clinic Chronicles informs our community about programs, services, training opportunities, and updates.

In our first edition, we will be hosting one featured article. This e-newsletter is dedicated to Voice of the Child.

# CLINIC CHRONICLES

JANUARY  
2020

*Clinic Chronicles informs our community about programs, services, training opportunities, and updates.*

**London Family Court Clinic (LFCC), is a non-for-profit organization whose primary mission is to serve children and families involved in the justice system. To date, we offer upward of 13 services.**

## Education, Program & Services:

London Family Court Clinic is pleased to support education and offer opportunities for students.

Currently, three psychology residents and five placement students are receiving training with us.

At the clinic, we also offer training on a variety of topics. Here are some upcoming training days!

## Upcoming Training:

February 5th:  
Crossover Youth: Understanding Complex Trauma, Attachment, and Adolescent Development

March 5th:  
Online Abuse: Virtual Violence and Its Impact on Young Women and Girls

March 27th:  
Postvention: A Community Response to Youth Suicide

April 2nd - 4th:  
VoC: Three day training event. Hosted by PCCS. Located in Oshawa, Ontario

April 9th: AM  
Domestic Violence: Helping an Abused Woman

April 9th: PM  
Domestic Violence: Helping Children Exposed to Violence at Home

April 16th:  
Custody and Access Involving Intimate Partner Violence & its Impact on Children

# VOICE OF THE CHILD

Children are the primary concern when a family is experiencing separation, but they are often left silenced because there is no objective space for them to voice their feelings. They don't want to feel like they are 'taking sides'. They need a way to participate in a process that is difficult by expressing their feelings and having control over how those feelings are shared with the adults in their lives.

According to research, including children in matters that affect them has been shown to improve their experience and overall feelings about the outcome. On the other hand, keeping children in the dark about the separation has been shown to make children feel excluded and angry.



be heard and to participate in any process that impacts them.

Voice of the Child (VoC) is a report that allows young voices to be heard. Not only is this critical for the child's self-worth and feelings about the separation, but it is also their right. In Ontario, the Child, Youth and Family Services Act states that a child has the right to

## CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

VoC is completed at London Family Court Clinic by our specialists who create a friendly environment for the child and gains their trust through age-appropriate activities and conversation. The interview includes discussion about the child's likes, dislikes, interests and feelings about the significant change that is taking place in their life.

London Family Court Clinic is confident that our team of professionals can make this difficult time a little easier for everyone.



## FAQ:

- Q. Do you need permission from both parents to complete a VoC?  
A. Yes. The report begins by obtaining consent from both parents and the child.  
Q. Will the psychologist tell us everything that our child said in the interview?

A. Confidentiality is discussed and each child has an opportunity to review the report and have any parts taken out that they are uncomfortable sharing. This level of confidentiality enhances each child's confidence and encourages them to be open and honest with the interviewer.

- Q. I don't want my child hearing anything that could be upsetting. How do I know this will not happen in the process?  
A. Our team is comprised of experts who specialize in child development, family dynamics



and mental health. Every VoC is different depending on factors such as the age and development of the child, their comfort level and the context of the family situation. Our team of experts have the specialized skills and knowledge to maintain a neutral position while supporting each child as they express their unique views.

## More Information:

To discuss a Voice of the Child report, any other specialized assessment and counselling needs: Please call 519.870.5922 or email [services@lfcc.on.ca](mailto:services@lfcc.on.ca)

## Training Update:

There will be a three day training event hosted by PCCS in Oshawa, Ontario on Voice of the Child.

Early Bird Price up to 15 days in advance of the course date \$1214.75 (\$1075.00 plus HST)

Regular Rate: \$1200.00 for three days plus HST Includes: 12 Step Package on USB and snacks/ lunch included.

Please contact: [drodrigues@pccs.ca](mailto:drodrigues@pccs.ca)



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### INFORMATION SEMINAR - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**EQ4: Community Supports:** Join us as we celebrate Bell Let's Talk Day and announce our new community-driven initiative!



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### TRAINING - IN PERSON

**Crossover Youth: Understanding Complex Trauma, Attachment, and Adolescent Development**



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### TRAINING - IN PERSON

**Online Abuse: Virtual Violence and Its Impact on Young Women and Girls**

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### TRAINING - WEBINAR

**Postvention: A Community Response to Youth Suicide**



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### TRAINING - IN PERSON

**Voice of the Child:** Hosted by PCCS in Oshawa - Three Day Training Event

## Bell Let's Talk: January 29th

What is Bell Let's Talk?

Bell Let's Talk is about opening the conversation up about mental health and being able to talk freely about it without any barriers. For this year, they are focusing on "Mental Health: Every Action Counts".

For every text, mobile and long distance call made on the Bell network, Bell will contribute 5 cents to Canadian mental health programs. This continued with any tweet using #BellLetsTalk, social media video view and use of the Facebook Frame/Snapchat Filter.

Join us as we work together to improve the lives of Canadians living with mental health issues and help create a positive change. It's never too early to start talking!

Looking to start your own dialogue about mental health? [Bell Let's Talk](#) toolkit will help begin your conversation at home, school, in the workplace or your community.

## Postvention is Prevention: Let's Talk

*Mental health is important for everyone at LFCC. As we focus on youth and parents involved in the criminal justice system, LFCC works to improve mental health and the barriers faced on a daily basis.*

*In recognition of Bell Let's Talk Day, we will hold a discussion on an intervention during the aftermath of a suicide. A matter in which, the entire community is affected.*

*The term "Postvention" was designed to mean the intervention that is conducted by multiple aspects of the community after a suicide. This response supports the community in preventing suicide contagion.*

*Postvention is a key partner in prevention, treatment and intervention. Effective and timely postvention can drastically and positively impact a community by reducing the distress among those affected by the death.*

*It is aimed at minimizing the potential for imitative suicide behaviour and promotes the healthy recovery of community by providing learning/educational opportunities about how to help someone in a crisis and how to recognize warning signs.*

*With this type of support, the chances of future suicides are potentially lowered. In short, postvention is prevention.*



Mental health: every action counts.

January 29



## Canine Co-workers

Meet Yzer, a key partner at LFCC! Yzer has been donated to us by National Service Dogs and works with clients both at the London Family Court Clinic and London Courthouse.

Some of you might remember the beautiful Merel, while she will remain forever in our hearts, she was retired last year. We are so proud of her accomplishments and are grateful we were able to care for and look after her. In turn, she looked after us!

Having a service dog that is professionally trained can aide in a child feeling calm and secure within the courtroom, this is paramount as it can help reduce anxiety and empower the child/youth to be more at ease. In turn, the child will be more responsive and have clearer communication.

Did you know? LFCC was the first organization in the London area to offer a professionally trained canine for youth within the justice system.

To read more about our canine coworkers, please view this [link](#).



## FASD: A Night Out

Parent Support Group



"A Night Out" is a supportive and safe environment for the parent of a child/youth presenting with signs of FASD to connect with families, caregivers and individuals on the FASD journey.

The evenings include discussions, learning opportunities and a chance to relax while children and youth engage in safe, interactive, age-appropriate sensory play.

Location: Merrymount Family Support Crisis Centre

Dates: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month

Times: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

## FASD: Parent Connect

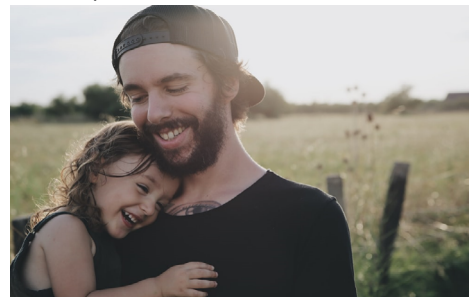
**"Peer support is based on the belief that people who have faced, endured and overcome adversity can offer useful support, encouragement, hope and perhaps mentorship to others facing similar situations"**\*

Parent Connect is a parent-to-parent mentoring program offered by LFCC, with funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The program connects parents/caregivers of children (of any age) suspected or diagnosed with FASD, into mentor-mentee dyads.

*\*Davidson, Chinman, Sells, & Rowe, 2006, p.443*

The key purpose of Parent Connect is to bring together parents that have similar challenges in order to experience a mutually beneficial relationship that will reduce feelings of their social isolation and many other benefits.

LFCC offers FASD assessments. For more information, please contact CCM: [519.870.5922](tel:519.870.5922)



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### TRAINING - IN PERSON

**Domestic Violence:** Helping an Abused Woman

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### TRAINING - IN PERSON

**Domestic Violence:** Helping Children Exposed to Violence at Home

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### TRAINING - WEBINAR

**Custody and Access:** Involving Intimate Partner Violence & its Impact on Children

## Thinking of Donating?



LFCC is a not-for-profit and charitable organization. We rely on support from the community, foundations, businesses and various levels of government to create social impact.

Your support makes a difference!  
Charitable Number: 129915153RR0001

We thank you for all of your future and past donations.

Our goal: Integrating specialized clinical practice, education and research that promotes resiliency in children and families to move beyond the justice system.

[Click here to donate](#)



Professional Services for Families in Court

## Inquiries?

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