



Canadian Initiatives on Trauma-Informed Care for Residential Care Workers: Where do We Go from Here

Research has only recently begun paying attention to Residential Care Workers (RCWs) and the challenging contexts in which they work. Despite evidence linking child welfare-related work with high turnover, burnout, and secondary/post-traumatic stress, these problems persist. This presentation will examine several initiatives over the past decade in Canada that honor the experiences of RCWs: (1) Research demonstrating the importance of trauma-informed Care (TIC) implementation at the organizational level as a means to reduce harm to RCWs and promote the rehabilitation of children and youth; (2) a novel study describing the experiences of 226 RCWs across three provinces, including their adverse childhood experiences, adult resilience and attachment, professional quality of life, and attitudes towards TIC; (3) a synthesis of data spanning a decade that reflect RCW perspectives across Québec, including a ground-breaking study on moral distress (N=10), what supports RCWs are lacking, how they define and access effective support at work, and what constitutes achievement and work worth taking pride in (N=81); and (4) a recap of studies on TIC training program implementation in several provinces. Here we will reflect on the success of TIC training programs in shifting our lens to extend TIC beyond children and youth to RCWs, and highlight the need for other innovative approaches. This presentation offers a window into the unique experiences of and ingenuity RCWs demonstrate to persist in their work, the profound interdependent relationships of care woven through their sense of success, and how these can inform future TIC programming for RCWs.

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- ENGLISH PRESENTATION -

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The logo for the 2023 Trauma Symposium features the text "2023 Trauma Symposium" in a sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic consisting of two overlapping circles, one larger than the other, with a thin orange line curving around them.