



## Department of Public Safety

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE &  
SEXUAL ASSAULT  
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### **TO FOLLOW ARE THE REMARKS OF CDVSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LAUREE MORTON AT THE OPENING OF THE 2015 PREVENTION SUMMIT**

Good morning.

Recently I've been thinking about the traditional way of identifying yourself by relaying kinships so you can find common ground and know it is good to talk with one another. I learned about that from elders in Bethel when I first moved there in 1989. And what I've been thinking is that for me and for us, the kinship to share is not biological, but foundational to the movement in Alaska.

Caren Robinson, Bing Santamour, Mary Pete, Barbara Miklos, Cindy Smith, Ruth Lister, Carole Schwartz, Carla Timpone: these women are my kinship in this movement to end violence and to create peace. It is their names and others like them that we should share with each other when we meet, because it is on their work, their common ground that we stand. It is their story we share. If you don't know it, I encourage you to find out who started this work in your community and share their names with us when we meet again.

Alaskan Communities Making a Difference Together—isn't it amazing —victims, survivors, advocates, offenders — we are no longer alone.

Teams from 16 communities (Anchorage, Bethel, Cordova, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Kenai, Mat/Su, Nome, Prince of Wales, Sitka, Unalaska, Dillingham) you are here and will be learning together, sharing together, willing together to change us - to bring about right thinking and right action.

One of the first things I heard when I moved to Bethel -one thing that has stayed with me--Healing will come from the North. I believe that today. Our chair, Pastor Richard Irwin would say you are change-makers.

You are strong and courageous.

From men in Metlakatla to juvenile justice workers in Ketchikan, Nome, Anchorage engaged in COMPASS- our male mentoring program;

From parents and youth across the state involved in shaping “Talk Now Talk Often,” the program that helps parents start difficult discussions with youth;

From 94 youth and 42 adults from Ambler, Akiachak, Alakanuk, Anchorage, Atmoutluak, Bethel, Cordova, Deering, Dillingham, Dutch Harbor, Fairbanks, Gambell, Homer, Hooper Bay, Iliamna, Juneau, Kake, Ketchikan, Kiana, Kodiak, Kwethluk, Metlakatla, Napaskiak, Nenana, New Stuyahok, Nome, Old Harbor, Ruby, Sand Point, Scammon Bay, Sitka, St. Michael, St. Paul, Togiak who participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> annual LeadOn! for Peace and Equality conference this past fall;

We gain in our understanding and vision of a World Without Violence— (Showed video clip from When I am An Elder).

Take time during the next few days to celebrate the building momentum, know that you make a difference, lives are changed because you stand up and speak up against violence.

Feel the momentum and continue to share this mighty work with others.

After the conclusion of a three-year evaluation we can say the 4<sup>th</sup> R shows promise in Alaska—youth who participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> R showed improved awareness of abusive behavior; reduced acceptance of physical aggression; reduced adherence to rape myths and something we didn't expect to see— increased positive social support among youth with high ACE scores. Sixty schools in 21 districts are participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> R program in Alaska.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month last October, Klawock and Anchorage officially declared themselves Green Dot communities. Anchorage changed the name of Domestic Violence Awareness Month to Domestic Violence Action month. Homer just raised money to train 1000 new bystanders through a crowd funding campaign for Green Dot.

While Alaska leads the nation in crime statistics (58 out of every 100 AK women, ipv/sa/both—thanks to the women) we also are leading the nation in community prevention strategies. One example is that the innovative Green Dot launch developed in Homer was recently replicated by a university in Dayton, Ohio.

One of the women's names we will all share is Patti Bland. Patti Bland loved the Alaskan people and was completely committed to ensuring the voices of victims were at each table. She left us too soon, but her legacy is vibrant and continues through the advocates, through all of us who learned from her every day.

Another name will be Ann Rausch. Ann is a recipient this year of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's Visionary Voice award for her progressive prevention work in our state. Congratulations, Ann.

What you're doing is working and it must continue. We have gained too much ground to take any backward steps. You are the experts. You have the knowledge. Your names will be the names future community organizers share when they talk about their common ground.

The campaign slogan this year is "Together We Can Make a Difference." You are making a difference.

I am reading a book of Psalms for today and leave you with this phrase from Psalm 85: "Until the planet knows peace and lives justly."

Thank you