Cruel But Not Unusual
Violence in Families in Canada, 3rd edition
Ramona Alaggia and Cathy Vine, editors

Expanded and updated 3rd edition

Picture family life in Canada. Does it include women or girls being murdered, on average, every two and a half days? Or the fact that intimate partner violence counts as nearly one-third of all reports to police? Or that child or elder abuse is more common than you might imagine?

Written for students, instructors, practitioners, and advocates in all related fields, this expanded and updated third edition of Cruel But Not Unusual: Violence in Families in Canada offers the latest research, thinking, and strategies to address this hard reality in Canada today.

Violence takes many forms inside relationships and families, and the systems charged with responding and helping can actually add to the harm, further isolating and endangering victims. Nowhere is this more evident than in intentionally marginalized communities, such as Indigenous, Black, people of colour, LGBTQI2S+, people with disabilities, and immigrant, refugee, and non-status women. From recommendations on resisting anti-Black state-sanctioned violence, to a call to action on partner abuse within LGBTQI2S+ communities, the book offers bold ideas for moving forward, highlighting the work of researchers and activists from these communities.

Using a range of perspectives (feminist, trauma-informed, intersectional, anti-oppression) and including diverse couple and family relationships and settings (foster care, group homes, institutions), the contributors track violence across the life course, addressing the impact on the brain, trauma, coercive control, resilience, disclosing abuse, the MeToo movement, self-care, and providing practical case examples and guidelines for working with children, youth, adults, couples, families, and groups. The result is an authoritative source that offers new insights and approaches to inform understanding, policy, practice, and prevention.

Ramona Alaggia, MSW, PhD, RSW, Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, examines gender-based violence from the standpoint of survivors and service providers. As the Margaret & Wallace McCain Family Chair in Child & Family, she promotes the well-being of children and families. Using a trauma- and resilience-informed lens, her research contributes to developing anti-discriminatory policies and practices for women and children living with violence.

Cathy Vine, MSW, RSW, collaborates with diverse groups—young people, parents, researchers, practitioners, advocates, and Indigenous organizations—to advance their goals. Highlights include developing and leading a community-based response to child sexual abuse, promoting children's rights and well-being through Voices for Children, supporting the Youth Leaving Care Hearings, and working with Indigenous researchers to promote cultural safety and Indigenous student success.
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

Introduction: Radical Resilience for the Times We Live In / Ramona Alaggia and Cathy Vine
Spotlight: Radical Resilience—From Individual Self-Care to Collective Action

### GROUNDING OUR WORK

1. Violence, Trauma, and Resilience / Michael Ungar, Delphine Collin-Vézina, and Bruce D. Perry
   - Spotlight: Guidelines for Trauma-Informed Practice to Build Resilience

2. Violence Against Women: A Structural Perspective / Colleen Lundy
   - Spotlight: A Stalled Revolution and Ways to Move Forward

3. Easier Said Than Done: Disclosing Gender-Based Violence in the MeToo Era / Ramona Alaggia
   - Spotlight: Ten Ways to Provide a Trauma-Informed Response to Gender-Based Violence Disclosures

4. Giving Voice to Women and Children Killed in the Context of Domestic Homicide: Lessons Learned from Death Review Committees / Peter Jaffe, Deborah Sinclair, Laura Olzowy, Michael Saxton, Katherine Reif, and Carolyn O’Connor
   - Spotlight: Parent Alienation as a Shield Against Domestic Violence Allegations

### INTENTIONALLY MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES AND VIOLENCE

5. Systemic Oppression, Violence, and Healing in Indigenous Families and Communities / Cyndy Baskin
   - Spotlight: Progress Report on the TRC’s Calls to Action

   - Spotlight: Recommendations for Resisting Anti-Black State-Sanctioned Violence

7. Linking the Structural Violence of Immigration to Gender-Based Violence Against Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women in Canada / Rupaleem Bhuyan and Margarita Pintin-Perez
   - Spotlight: Building Leadership Capacity to Address Gender-Based Violence Against Non-Status, Refugee, and Immigrant Women Across Canada

8. Taking Up Power, Control, and Exclusion: Partner Abuse Within LGBTQI2S+ Communities / J. Roy Gillis, Shaindl L. Diamond, and Mariam Ayoub
   - Spotlight: Community Call to Action

   - Spotlight: Questions about Empowerment and Domination

### VIOLENCE ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE

    - Spotlight: Baby Amy and the Impact of Intimate Partner Violence and Trauma

11. Addressing Child Maltreatment in Canada: What Have We Learned? / Cathy Vine, Melanie Doucet, NICO Trocmé, and Barbara Fallon
    - Spotlight: Three Ways to Reduce Child Maltreatment in Canada

12. “Correcting what is evil in the child”: Child Corporal Punishment and Canadian Law / Anne McGillivray and Joan E. Durrant
    - Spotlight: Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting

13. Thinking It Was Love: Adolescent Dating Violence / Martine Hébert, Alison Paradis, Mylène Fernet, Andréanne Fortin, and Laurie Fortin
    - Spotlight: SPARX, a Multicomponent Program

    - Spotlight: Promising Interventions with Violent Fathers

15. “Change Your Number”: When Technology Intersects with Coercive Control, Intimate Partner Violence, and Legal Systems / Ramona Alaggia, Carolyn O’Connor, and Marsha Scott
    - Spotlight: Domestic Abuse Act (Scotland)

    - Spotlight: Working With IPV Perpetrators—A Scary Prospect?

17. The Sombre Side of Care: The Abuse and Neglect of Older People in Canada / Lynn McDonald
    - Spotlight: Public Inquiry into the Safety and Security of Residents in the Long-Term Care Homes System Report

Contributors

Index