Introduction
In today’s gendered society, the Canadian media plays a central role in the representation of men and women, and issues of gender stereotypes are embodied in every aspect of life. In this project, I will examine “How are parenting roles of men and women depicted in the media?” The findings of this paper show that men neglect their children; whereas, women are more active parents. This paper begins by providing a literature review on the topic of gender and parenting style. It then explicitly explains the research question of the project. The operationalization section will present the tools that I used to answer the question in a form of coding schemes, which will be presented in a cross-tabulation. Then, I will elaborate and reflect on the findings and the research process based on the quantitative data.

Literature Review
Parents are the pillars of the composition of families, and the parenting roles affecting child development highly impact the structure of a society. In fact, parents are the first agents of socialization for young children, especially in the initial stages of development when the child is helpless and in need of emotional and physical affection (Caron & Brym, 2014, p. 118). In her analysis in Effects of Authoritative Parental Control on Child Behavior, Baumrind (1966) discusses the influence of parents towards their children by providing three models of parenting control consisting of authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive styles. According to Baumrind (1966), a permissive parent is acceptant and affirmative toward the child’s impulses; an authoritarian parent requires an unquestionable obedience from the child, while an authoritative parent regulates child’s attitudes in a rational-oriented manner. The authoritative style demands high expectations
from the child, and at the same time, the parents offer emotional support and nurture (Baumrind, 1966).

In order to explore the question of parenting role and gender, it is crucial to specify that the concept of gender is different from the notion of biological sex. In their article, West and Zimmerman (1987) recognize the independence between the concepts of sex, sex category, and gender. Gender is the social construction of how a person with an assigned sex should behave, and the behavior is culturally associated in either a feminine or masculine manner. A study conducted by Craig (2006) showed that mothers are more involved in physical tasks, that they spend more time with their children, and that they have more general responsibility and care than fathers. The study also showed women provide care even when they work full-time.

**Research question**

This project aims to answer the following research question: “How are parenting roles of men and women depicted in the media?” This research question is worthy of analysis because it can be analyzed within the specified timeline – September 2015 to March 2016. The question also appears not to have been answered before. More importantly, the research question doesn’t imply causality, and it exhibits operationalized variables; that is, the variables are measurable, and neither variable has an impact over the other. In today’s tech-oriented society, the media is one of the central sources of the socialization process, a process that is speeded up by the online articles that are accessible on a daily basis. Therefore, analyzing the depiction of parenting roles in newspapers certainly provides insight into the norms around gender stereotypes that are consistently internalized by consumers.
Operationalization/Unit of Observation/Coding Scheme

In order to answer the research question, an operationalization of variables is essential to establish a map that guides the entire analysis process. Two variables arise in the stated research question: the gender of the parent and the depiction of the parenting role. By parenting role, I mean any activity or course of action taken by parents in bringing up their children. The measurement of these variables is articulated through a coding scheme established for each variable. In other words, the coding scheme helps to determine the identification of potential items that answer the question. Throughout the project, units of analysis and units of observations are the same, which comprise fact-based stories. The coding scheme for the gender variable is communicated in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Non-Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>Any person declared as or identifies themselves as being a man. Identified themselves with the social construct and socialization of being a man. To identify if the person being described in the news story is a man, pronouns which are commonly used to describe men will be used. This does not include any persons whose gender is unknown or not specified.</td>
<td>Referring to the person as a man. Using the words: -He, His, Him, Husband, Father Mr., Sir, Guy…</td>
<td>Referring to the person as a woman. Using the words: - She, Her, Wife, Ms., Mrs., Miss., Lady…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman</td>
<td>Any person declared as or identifies themselves as being a woman. It is a person who has identified themselves with the social construct and socialization of being a woman. To identify if the person being described in the news story is a woman, pronouns which are commonly used to describe women will be used. This</td>
<td>Referring to the person as a woman. Using the words: - She, Her, Wife, Mother, Ms., Mrs.,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
does not include any persons whose gender is unknown or not specified. Miss., Lady…

Transgender
Any person who has declared themselves as being a transgendered individual. A person who is transgender. -Man or Woman

Other
any gender which does not fit into the above categories

The coding scheme for media depictions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media depiction</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Non-Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Parents who have an active role in the children’s lives, by nurturing them emotionally and physically.</td>
<td>Using words that imply their parenting style as active, such as giving advice, listening, playing with children.</td>
<td>Using words like ‘could not do anything about it’, or ‘was too late to act’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive</td>
<td>Parents are rather more responsive. The role depicted is one of disconnection and lack of interest.</td>
<td>Using words like ‘could not do anything about it’, or ‘was too late to act’.</td>
<td>The child suffers from injuries as a result.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect</td>
<td>The role depicted is one of not giving proper care or attention, hence harming the child.</td>
<td>The child suffers from injuries as a result.</td>
<td>Using words that imply their parenting style as active, such as giving advice, listening, playing with children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Anything that does not fit in the other categories provided.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Therefore, in the codification process, keywords are important to decide where each item fits into the relevant category. For instance, in the article presented in appendix 4, the item depicts the extent to which a mother was tolerant and even supportive to her transgender son. In this case, the parent is a woman marked by “mother”, while the
parenting role was active as the article reveals it by “supportive”. In fact, the support was symbolically underlined by a tattoo of the mother. Therefore, this item matches with the Women/Active cell of the cross-tabulation. In the appendix 6, the court hears about how a father was torturing his son with a harsh and hostile manner. This article will be codified in the Man/Neglect cell of the crosstab because the gender of the parent is underlined by “dad”, and the parenting style was stressed by “terrorize”. In the appendix 7, the article portrays how a father is interacting with his son when he wanted to wear a dress, a costume that is stereotypically designed for girls. The gender of the parent was clearly highlighted in the article by the word “father”, and the parenting style was active since the boy was satisfied with the positive action of his father. Hence, this item corresponds with the Man/Active intersection of the crosstab.

Data Gathering/Sampling

In the data gathering process, non-probability convenience sampling has been chosen to select articles, and a total of 50 items were gathered to give an answer to the research question. Non-probability sampling means that units are selected based on the subjective deduction of the researcher. The timeline from which articles were identified was from September 2015 to March 2016. All articles were selected online, during this process, as it offers the opportunity to find potential stories through entering specific keywords related to the research question. The keywords used in this project are: parent, father, mother, dad, mom, son, daughter, child, and kid. In addition to pinpointing keywords, a careful read of the whole story all items is essential to decide whether the parenting style was explicitly mentioned in each of the 50 articles.
Findings/Crosstab

After gathering all the articles from the newspapers, a crosstab is constructed to provide a quantitative answer to the research question:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media Depiction</th>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Passive</th>
<th>Neglect</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Gender</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Media Depictions</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>68.2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Gender</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Media Depictions</td>
<td>63.1%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Gender</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Media Depictions</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Gender</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Media Depictions</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Gender</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% within Media Depictions</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the main paradigm of the crosstab, the variable gender was depicted into different proportions. 62.5% of the men were described as neglecting fathers toward their children. As for mothers, 60% were depicted as active parents. At the same time, among the data gathered, there was only one item that has an active transgender parenting style. The variable of depiction of parenting styles was also distributed with different proportions. Within active parents, 63.1% were described as women, and within passive
parenting style, 66.7% were depicted as men. Lastly, within the neglecting parenting role, there were 68.2% men and 27.3% women.

**Discussion/Data Analysis/Answer**

Because no statistical analysis was performed, the answer to the research question “How are parenting roles of men and women depicted in the media?” is not definitive but rather tentative. According to the findings, on the one hand, online stories often depicted the fact that fathers neglected their kids in their parenting style, which results in harming the child. This finding is consistent with the literature review. In fact, men are socially defined as masculine, which implies showing toughness, hiding sensitivity, and avoiding emotional interactions. On the other hand, out of 50 articles, 60% of the stories depicted women as active parents. In other words, they depict women as devoting considerable attention to their children along with emotional nurture. This finding is also consistent with the literature review. Indeed, women are socially defined as feminine, which is associated with gentleness, consideration, and empathy. Furthermore, this indicates that the newspaper articles portray women as providing a high care toward their children. As a result, there is a significant alignment of the media depiction of the parenting roles of men and women with the literature. Surprisingly, however, there was only one item which represents 2% of the sample that depicts the role of a transgender parent, which reflects that there is a considerable marginalization of transgender people within the Canadian media. On top of that, although Canada is known to be an egalitarian society, according to the crosstab, there was an overall representation of 48% of men and 40% of women, so men outnumber women in the depiction of parenting style in the newspapers.
Reflection/Strengths/Challenges

The project encompasses various strengths inasmuch as it encourages me to conduct the research independently. For instance, throughout the project, I have learned how to formulate a scientific research question, and it must not imply causality, but rather, the question has to be operationalized. However, searching for articles was time-consuming because it was challenging to identify specific keywords that are related to the research question, so the data gathering process is the most demanding step in the content analysis. Additionally, the timeline is narrowly restricted, which adds extra constraints to select items. Overall, the content analysis is an essential task in which I have developed multiple writing and research skills.

Conclusion

The tentative answer to the research question “How are parenting roles of men and women depicted in the media?” is clearly consistent with the popular stereotypes about masculinity and femininity, under the lights of parenting roles. While there was a significant representation of the neglecting style of men, women were more active in nurturing the child. In addition, the media reinforces the public perception about patriarchal representations in newspaper articles. The statistical observations show that there were more men portrayed in the parenting style than women, while there was a lack of representing cross-gender people as transgender parents were remarkably marginalized in the media. This paper contributes to the literature insofar as it provides a Canadian perspective in parenting style. Finally, in the direction of pursuing further research, I would compare and contrast the findings of the Canadian newspapers with non-Canadian newspapers to construct results in a global context.


Bibliography


When Bradyn Smith was four, his father gave him a timeout and his mother got mad.

He said he heard his parents fighting. He said he saw his father shove his mother. Then, he said, he watched his mother grab a knife and drive it through his father’s chest.

Then she tossed the knife into the sink. His father, Robert Takach, died at age 25.

His mother, Shannon Smith, now 29, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and tampering with evidence in the 2009 slaying.

She was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Smith appeared Wednesday in court in Warren County, Ohio, to ask for early release. In anticipation, Bradyn, now aged 10, wrote the judge, asking him to keep his mother behind bars.

"Dear Judge Peeler: I feel that my mom should stay in prison because I seen her stab my dad clean through the heart with my sister in his arms," Bradyn wrote in pencil.

"Life for me would be 10 times better if mom didn't kill my dad because that took a big amount of happiness out of mine and my sister’s life."

At a hearing, Judge Robert Peeler set Smith’s release date for December 2016, marking seven years of incarceration.

For three years after her release, she will be on community control, which is similar to probation, and she will be on house arrest the first year.

Several weeks ago, Takach's mother, Patty Todd, told Bradyn his mother was trying to get out of prison. "I felt the need to tell him his mother may be able to get out of prison. When I told him, he wound up crying in my lap for an hour."

Bradyn told Todd that he wanted to talk to the judge.

Instead, the court encouraged him to write a letter.
The letter, scribbled on two pages torn from a notebook and shared with The Washington Post, is filled with Bradyn's memories of his father - and mentions of the new memories he would have made if his father "was still here."

"I think it would be better for me and my sister if my mom would stay in prison," he wrote, "because I am afraid of her because I have seen what she did to my dad."

Todd said after the hearing that she was still in shock.

"The judge said she needed to be out to be there for her children - but her children are afraid of her," she said.

"She took a life in front of her children. The court just disregarded the children's lives, my son's life."

Credit: Lindsey Bever; Washington Post
Appendix 2 – articled 2 (codified) Man/Neglect

Teen set free two years after shooting father; Self-defence


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1717453497?accountid=14771

It was just after dawn when the sound of gunfire summoned cruisers to a home in John D’Or Prairie, a First Nations settlement of 1,000 in northern Alberta.

Inside the house, officers with the RCMP and North Peace Tribal Police found a 48-year-old man, shot through the abdomen and lying dead in a puddle of blood.

Outside, they found a recently fired Winchester and a 13-year-old boy.

The dead man was his father, the boy would tell officers, and he had killed him in self-defence.

Last week, an Alberta judge agreed, setting the teenager free after more than two years in custody.

"He is not a murderer," lawyer Doug Majaesic told CBC’s Janice Johnston after his client was found not guilty of second-degree murder.

Even after the years of abuse, death threats and domestic violence, the boy had taken no pleasure in killing his father, said the lawyer. He was "devastated, in fact," said Majaesic.

The boy and his family cannot be named under the terms of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. But according to an exhaustive account gathered at the trial by the CBC, the accused had resorted to violence after years of abuse meted out to him, his siblings and his mother.

The father had hit his children almost every day, threatened to kill them more times than they could count, put a son into the hospital by forcing him to take unprescribed pills and pushed his daughter into a bathtub, causing a miscarriage.

One time, he had tried to run over the children with his truck.

The boy’s mother may have taken the worst of the abuse.

She appeared on the stand in High Level, Alta., without upper teeth and with scars and lumps covering her head.
The abuse came to a head in the early hours of Aug. 5, 2013.

After the accused's father began attacking his mother, the boy grabbed a rifle and burst into his parents' bedroom to intervene.

"And then he (the father) said: 'You got three seconds to leave or I'm gonna kill you. You and your mom.' ... Then he looked at me. And then I pulled the trigger," the accused told the court, according to CBC.

The weapon was a Winchester 30-30, the same type of lever-action rifle that would be used in the October 2014 parliament shooting.

While it is extremely rare for a child to kill a parent in an apparent act of selfdefence, it does seem to occur with semi-regularity in the Prairies.

Only a few months before the John D'Or Prairie shooting, a 14-year-old boy in rural Manitoba fatally stabbed his father under similar circumstances.

After drinking all day, the father struck his wife with a cellphone and squeezed lemon juice into her eyes. The son intervened, and in the ensuing scuffle fatally severed his father's pulmonary artery.

"His worry was that if he didn't overcome his father, they'd both be beaten to death," the 14-year-old's defence lawyer had said at trial.

Two years before that, 27-year-old Matthew Crichton shot his abusive 73-year-old father at the family's rural residence in Grovedale, Alta.

He pleaded guilty to manslaughter, arguing that he intended to fire only a warning shot, and was given a few months in jail.

"It's been for the best," Crichton told Postmedia in 2013. "My mom might eventually have been killed by my father ... and everyone can just be who they want to be."

Credit: Tristin Hopper; National Post. with files from Jana Pruden, Edmonton Journal
Appendix 3 – articed 3 (codified) Man/Active

It's expensive to chase a dream; A father's investment in his son's minor hockey career paid off, but he's the rare exception


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1750153655?accountid=14771

After Matt Duchene, who had been drafted third overall in the NHL, signed a contract in 2012 paying him an average of $3.5 million US per season as a forward with the Colorado Avalanche, his father took out a calculator and added up just how much he had invested into his son's career.

In the beginning, the costs were nominal. Vince Duchene spent $300 on an introductory learn-to-skate program and $1,400 on registration and equipment for his son's first year in organized hockey. But with every rung Matt Duchene climbed, the costs jumped accordingly.

Soon, Duchene was spending upward of $22,000 per year to cover everything from tournament fees and spring hockey leagues to personal trainers and stickhandling development lessons. Not to mention the many one-piece composite sticks his son broke in a year, at about $200 to $300 each.

"It's unbelievable how much money you can spend just on equipment," says Duchene.

By the end of Matt Duchene's 13-year minor hockey journey, his father estimated he had invested more than $300,000, which included potential loss of income because Vince, who is a real estate agent in Haliburton, Ont., was too busy taking his son to practices and games to sell houses.

"It was totally out of control," says the senior Duchene. "I knew I was spending that kind of money because all I had to do if I wanted to remind myself was look at the house I was living in at the time. I was in real estate and I had no cottage property, I had no investment and that was because 100 per cent of the dough was going into hockey."

For Duchene, the investment was worth it. Not only was his son drafted into the NHL, he won an Olympic gold medal for Canada at the 2014 Olympics. He's now on a five-year contract that pays him an average of $6-million US per season.

But not everyone makes it to the NHL. According to Jim Parcels, who co-authored the book Selling The Dream: How Hockey Parents and Their Kids Are Paying the Price for Our National Obsession, less than one per cent of Canadians who are registered in hockey from any single birth year will play even one game in the NHL.
Parcels, a longtime minor hockey coach and administrator, looked at three different birth years to determine the exact odds. There were 72,713 boys born in 1965. Of those, about 25,000 (that average number, says Parcels, has not really changed much) were at some point registered in minor hockey. But only 38 played in the NHL. Ten years later, the number of NHLers born in 1975 dropped to 32. It was 25 in 1985 - or 0.1 per cent.

"When I wrote that study 15 to 20 years ago, it was basically to open eyes," said Parcels. "The average number of Canadian kids from a birth year that play in the NHL is 25. Of those, only half play more than a handful of games."

And yet, hockey registration is not decreasing (Hockey Canada estimates there are 500,000 Canadians registered in minor hockey this year). Neither, apparently, is the amount of money families are willing to spend.

A survey conducted by Hockey Canada revealed the average parent spent nearly $3,000 on minor hockey in the 2011-12 season. But that number was closer to $10,000 to 15,000 for parents whose child made a Triple-A team.

In another survey, conducted by Scotiabank, 40 per cent of parents believed their children's hockey expenses were too high. Those same parents also said they'd be willing to cut spending elsewhere to afford it.

In fact, a 2015 Leger survey published by the Canadian Scholarship Trust, an RESP provider, revealed that 66 per cent of Canadian parents have borrowed money or used their retirement savings - or know someone who has - to put a child through hockey or other sports.

"There's no question what we're trying to do is make the game affordable for kids," says Hockey Canada's Pier-Alexandre Poulin, manager of school programs. "As you work your way up the ladder, things get more and more expensive. But I think you should be able to do it without costing you six months of mortgage payments."

"I pity hockey if the next Wayne Gretzky is born to a single mother, because I don't see a hope in hell that he's ever going to get a chance," said Stacey Jenkins, a former minor hockey team manager whose 19-yearold son Kyle is a seventh-round pick for the Carolina Hurricanes. "Go to a hockey tournament on the weekend and look at the cars in the parking lot. You'll see the Cadillac SUVs and luxury cars. It's attracting money."

Vince Duchene recently sold a house where the man and his wife had ignored all home improvements ("They had a 2x2 as the railing for their stairs," he says) because all their money was going into their children's hockey expenses.

Jeff Schenn, whose sons Luke and Brayden play for the Philadelphia Flyers, is a firefighter who also used to work as an electrician and helped build homes so his boys could play hockey.
"You had to do whatever it took in order to give your kids what they needed," he says.

"I remember when Luke went to the Telus Cup in Gatineau, Que., that was an expensive year. One parent kept track and he figured it was $15,000 that year." Still, Jeff and Rita Schenn laugh at how lucky they were.

When their boys were growing up in Saskatoon, hockey training was still very much a DIY enterprise, with Luke and Brayden spending extra hours on the local pond or exercising in the basement.

Today, it's become a business that threatens to bankrupt parents or dissuade them from putting their kids in an expensive sport.

"It's unfortunate, because it's going to knock some kids out of hockey," says Rita Schenn. "I've never really sat down and added up how much we spent. I think it's something we don't want to know."

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ABOUT THIS SERIES

Wednesday: The growth of hockey academies across Canada Thursday: The academics at academies Today: The high cost of hockey Saturday: Does sports specialization at a young age make sense?

BIG-LEAGUE ASPIRATIONS, BIG-LEAGUE COSTS

Matt Duchene's parents said they spent more than $300,000 on his minor-hockey development. It sounds like a gross over-estimation. But from buying sticks and skates to hiring personal trainers and power-skating instructors, it all adds up. Here is a head-to-toe breakdown of the costs for developing the next NHLer:

HEAD

$35,000-$53,000 The yearly tuition for a hockey academy, such as PEAC School for Elite Athletes - where Connor McDavid went - which blends elite athletics with private-school education.

LEGS

$500-$700 The price of an 18-week power-skating session, such as Steve Serdachny Powerskating, where Dion Phaneuf and Ryan Smyth both trained. The program helps players "develop maximum efficiency, power, acceleration and speed."

FEET
$300-$700 The price of a pair of skates, such as CCM's Jetspeed Skate that feature RocketFrame boot technology and "an ultra-light carbon outer sole," features that promise to make players better skaters.

CHEST

$2,000-$3,000 The price for 48 sessions with an off-ice personal trainer, such as the ones that Morgan Rielly and Karl Alzner use at Twist Sport Conditioning, which can make players stronger and more explosive.

HANDS

$250-$700 The price of 10 lessons at a stickhandling program such as SK8ON, which teaches hockey skills development and counts Steven Stamkos, Brent Burns and Jason Spezza as clients.

STICK

$200-$300 The price of a one-piece composite stick, such as the Alex Ovechkin-endorsed Bauer Vapor APX that "senses your shot and adjusts to deliver a perfect release." Count on buying at least four per season, because they tend to break.

Credit: Michael Traikos; Postmedia News

Illustration

Michael Traikos, Dean Tweed, Postmedia News / Vince Duchene stands with son Matt, now a forward with the Colorado Avalanche. Vince estimates his son's minor hockey journey cost more than $300,000 - or approximately $22,000 a year.
Appendix 4 – articed 4 (codified) Active/Woman

Transgender teen’s mom urges families to support their kids


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1749547666?accountid=14771

A Calgary mother whose story of changing her tattoo to show support for her transgender son prompted an international wave of online support says she hopes other families will support their kids after they come out.

Lindsay Peace said her 15-year-old son left her a letter on New Year’s Eve telling her he was transgender.

Peace said the news was difficult to adjust to at first, but the family was quick to accept Ace.

"I was relieved he had a word for something, to explain the previous couple years," Peace said. "It was just so obvious to us that the only thing we could do was to support him."

Peace has tattoos on her arm of all of her children, two boys and one girl. After Ace began living as a boy, people started asking questions about the little girl in the pink dress on the inside of her forearm.

"I was clearly with the three boys, and then there was this girl on my arm," Peace said. "We would just laugh and say it was a neighbour or it was a cousin."

Peace said she contemplated removing it, but her husband, Steve Peace, is a tattoo artist and had a different plan.

"It was easy," he said. "My wife thought she was going to laser it, but I was like, 'No, no, we can just cover it.' "Ace said he hadn’t thought much about the tattoo until people started asking questions. He said his parents’ decision to alter the tattoo was proof of their support.

"It meant a lot because it really showed how much trust she had in me and that she accepted me to put this permanent image on her body," Ace said.

Peace said they aren’t the only ones who accept Ace for who he is - teachers and school administrators have also been supportive. When he came out nearly a year ago, he was in Grade 9 at Valley Creek School.
"They were awesome," she said. "They were super, super accommodating. At Ace's middle school, he was the first openly trans kid and they figured out a gender-neutral bathroom, and they did a Power-Point presentation for all of his classmates to explain."

Since writing about the modified tattoo on Facebook, Peace has garnered international attention. Media outlets in the United Kingdom and United States picked up her family's story, framing it as an inspiring tale of familial support. She and her husband both hope other families learn that acceptance and support is the best way to handle similar situations.

Peace said even though things were difficult at first, she would never change how things turned out.

"I would never ever, ever in a million years wish for him to be the kid that he used to be. And people say, 'you must miss your daughter,' and I don't anymore. He's a hundred times better and happier and he's a different kid and he's really who he's supposed to be."

Ace's dad said the first month was tough, but things got easier when he saw how much happier Ace was.

"If you support your kid from Day 1, you'll see as they go through their little journey that they get happier and happier with everything that happens. Ace got his hair cut first. He used to have long hair, and now it's short. He just seemed happier the next day. It just seemed more of a true fit."

bhildebrand@postmedia.com

Credit: Bailey Hildebrand; Calgary Herald

Illustration

Photos: Aryn Toombs, Calgary Herald / Lindsay Peace shows off the tattoo of her transgender son Ace at their home in Calgary on Tuesday. Peace had her family tattoo changed to support her son after he came out.; Photos: Aryn Toombs, Calgary Herald / Elliot, from left, Hamish, Lindsay, Ace, and Steve Peace at their home in Calgary on Tuesday. Ace says his parents' decision to alter his mom's tattoo was proof of their support and acceptance of his transgender identity.
Appendix 5 – articled 5 (codified) Woman/Passive

Let your kids be bored; My mom was, and still is, the opposite of pushy


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1737924443?accountid=14771

I was born in northeast England, the second of two daughters.

I had a large extended family and we all lived close by and saw each other regularly.

I enjoyed a traditional childhood in the 1970s and '80s, watching too much television and eating convenience food because nobody cared if kids did that then.

My mom was, and still is, the opposite of a pushy mom. She didn't have ambitions to launch my sister and me in any direction.

Which is why the news this week that parents should be careful not to aim too high for their children, as anxiety makes them fail exams, caught my attention.

Analysis of math results showed the children of over-aspiring parents did worse than children whose parents had realistic aims.

It's not news that stress is detrimental to performance, but admitting that we cause our children to feel this way is.

People aren't pushy to be cruel: People are pushy because they are scared. After all, it wasn't long ago we were told that aspirations lifted grades.

I'm not saying my mother didn't have ambitions for me. She worked in various administrative jobs that fitted around our school hours, yet she often told me I could do anything I wanted.

I could be an astronaut, princess, engineer, actress or brain surgeon, but she never offered guidelines as to how this might be achieved. I got the feeling her ideas were daydreams, rather than serious suggestions.

Truthfully, my mother’s assessments of my talents were always far too generous. She thought I was brilliant at everything - even the things I was clearly very average at - so saw no need for extra lessons, practice or tutoring. She was blinded by love.

Quite quickly, I noticed a gap between my mother's assessment of me and reality. While she insisted I was beautiful, I noticed I was significantly overweight in comparison with
my friends. It never crossed her mind to put me on a diet or make me take regular exercise.

So if Mom didn't push me, what did she do? Well, I was given a second-hand electric typewriter for Christmas when I was 11 years old because I said I wanted to be a writer.

Besides that, three things come to mind. One, she loved me unconditionally. Two, she taught me that working hard and trying were important. Three, she gave me time to get thoroughly bored and discover self-reliance - which is a key to success.

The fact she wasn't hovering meant I could develop my own passions at my own pace. The fact she didn't stand over me while I was doing my homework meant I quickly learned for myself it was sink or swim.

She sometimes forgot I was there when she was talking to her friends and female relatives about life, love and the universe, so I was allowed to quietly observe adult life, watch and learn.

This stood me in good stead as a writer, but also simply as a person. I learned about the joys and heartaches of being an adult; I knew about grief and love, success and failure. Although I still couldn't play a musical instrument, speak a foreign language, or play tennis.

I also noticed most of the sparky, funny women Mom talked to hadn't fulfilled their potential - nor had Mom, who didn't go to university until I more or less forced her to.

There were fewer opportunities for women at the time and expectations were different. But my generation, I realized, had opportunities; we just had to reach for them.

I got good grades and went to university. I pursued my ambition to become a novelist and that's worked out for me.

With Christmas holidays approaching, I wonder how many children will have a school holiday experience similar to mine: Gorging on chocolate to the point of illness, followed by soul-crushing bouts of boredom. Very few, I'd guess.

Today, children return to school leaner and keener after attending organized, self-improving courses and camps. We've eradicated boredom from our children's lives since we fill every waking moment with something improving.

I believe in the merits of boredom. I think we need down-times so we can process and create.

I'm the mother of a 15-year-old and am constantly agonizing over whether I should be doing more to push him or whether to let him find his own feet. Am I letting him down by
not insisting he does more, or am I avoiding unnecessary stress as well as nurturing independence and self-reliance? I don't know. None of us knows the future.

I am so grateful my parents had the confidence to leave us to it. I hope I can be as brave in these crucial next few years.

Credit: Adele Parks; London Daily Telegraph

Illustration

Bethany Clarke, Getty Images / Boredom for children can give them the space to process their thoughts and be creative. Recent news has emerged that parents should be careful not to aim too high for their children, as anxiety over high expectations can make them fail at school.; Pablo Blazquez Dominguez, Getty Images / While adults engage in conversations with friends and relatives about their own lives, children may quietly observe - watching and learning from the sidelines.
Appendix 6 – articled 6 (codified) Man/Neglect

'You can't terrorize your son,' father was told in 2010; Dad confessed to chaining up son in basement, torturing him, court hears


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1727648047?accountid=14771

This article has been altered to remove the name of the child psychologist, whose name was subject to a publication ban.

A man accused of horrific abuse, including starvation and assault, of his son told a child psychologist in 2010 that he feared the boy, just eight-years old at the time, would grow up to be a sexual predator.

But a child psychologist, whose name has been subject to a publication ban, testified on Monday that there were absolutely no signs of it, that the boy was bright, and that his father - then an RCMP antiterrorism officer - was obsessed with punishing his son for what he believed was abnormal sexual behaviour.

The behaviour, in fact, amounted to nothing more than innocently hugging teachers and, in some cases, fellow students who had been bullied at school.

The psychologist testified that the boy was extremely intelligent, even though he was living in a chaotic, hostile and poisonous environment.

The psychologist said the boy's father interrogated his son about his daily school routine and that even after a battery of tests showing otherwise, he could not persuade the man that the boy showed "absolutely no evidence of sexual pre-occupation."

He said the father insisted the boy was manipulating him and telling him what he wanted to hear.

During one of several visits to the boy's home, the psychologist said, the father said he punished his son by making him sleep in the basement. The psychologist, hired by the father during a custody battle, told court that he became concerned about the boy's punishments - including pushups and cold showers - and said that if it happened again he'd call child-protection workers.

"You can't terrorize your son," the psychologist recalled telling the man in 2010.

"The parents saw him as a delinquent. I did not," the psychologist told court. The psychologist said he interviewed the boy 14 times and concluded that after years of
chaos, conflict and hostility at home, the boy had given up on any expectation that anyone in the world would love him.

Three years later, in 2013 and after the punishments intensified, the boy escaped the Kanata basement. Now 13, he has detailed horrifying abuse, including starvation and torture, and told the court he thought he was going to die the day his father pointed his service weapon at his head.

The boy's hands were often cuffed behind his back and he was kept naked, and chained to a post in the basement while the rest of his family went about their daily routine upstairs. He recalled that his father once left him with a full jar of peanut butter and some pita bread.

"He said, 'This should last you weeks.' " The father, since suspended from the RCMP, has confessed to chaining up his son in the suburban basement, torturing him with a barbecue lighter, and rationing his meals. The boy weighed only 50 pounds when he escaped after slipping out of his shackles.

The father's own video recordings of disturbing interrogations of his shackled and naked son, forcing him to confess so-called sins such as kissing a girl up in a tree, have been used against him in court.

The boy's father and stepmother are on trial for aggravated assault, forcible confinement and failure to provide necessities of life. The father is also charged with aggravated sexual assault.

His stepmother has told police that she had no control over the abuse. The trial continues Tuesday.

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Credit: Gary Dimmock; Ottawa Citizen
Appendix 7 – articled 7 (codified) Man/Active

Dad’s supportive response to son’s Elsa Halloween costume goes viral

VERONICA APPIA

The Globe and Mail

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Paul Henson is letting his son call the shots this Halloween. And that means both of them will be dressing up as Disney princesses.

On Sunday, the Virginia dad posted a photo of his three-year-old son, Caiden, to Facebook. In the picture, Caiden is wearing his dream costume: Princess Elsa from Disney’s Frozen.

Caiden isn’t stopping there. The toddler asked his dad to dress up as well – as Elsa’s sister, Anna, of course. Henson’s response? “Game on,” as he wrote on Facebook.

But Henson didn’t post Caiden’s photo only for the adorability factor; he had a deeper message.

The 28-year-old father added this gender-bending memo to his post: “Keep your masculine bullshit and slutty kids costumes, Halloween is about children pretending to be their favorite characters…”

Henson’s post struck a chord all over social media. With 27,000 shares and counting, people are refusing to “let it go.”

Caiden’s got dad’s support (and much of the Internet’s) but what about the naysayers who might be out there on Halloween? Toronto therapist and social worker Heather McPherson says that parents who are concerned that their child may get bullied because of their choice of costume should give them this advice beforehand: “You have to speak with confidence and say, ‘This is fun, this is Halloween, this is my costume,’ not defensively, but very confidently.”

She adds: “Say to the other person, ‘What about you, what is your costume?’ Or, ‘Thanks for the goodies, goodbye.’ And then you turn and you leave the situation.”
“I would try and keep it light in that situation and say, ‘this is just a fun time for everybody to play with different costumes and it’s about having fun,’” says Toronto psychotherapist Margaret Mikkelborg.

Mikkelborg says that when it comes to school, however, parents with kids who are dressing in costumes of the opposite sex may need to talk to their children about how to handle any potential negativity on their own.

“I think you need to warn the child that there could be pushback at school about this,” she says.

Mikkelborg advises parents to speak to their child’s teacher ahead of time to make sure the child is receiving the same support at school that they would at home.
Appendix 8 – articulated 8 (codified) Man/Neglect

'Betrayal of trust' dismissed by judge


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1728504586?accountid=14771

Over several days last year, an estranged father and his teenaged son reconnected in the Toronto area - going for food at McDonald's, shopping at the mall and playing video games in a motel room. At one point, he told the boy he had his back because "I'm your dad and I care."

But it was all a ruse. The father was wired up - working as an agent for the Durham Regional Police - and following a "scenario instruction sheet" aimed at extracting a confession from the boy in the beating death of his fouryear-old nephew.

Ultimately, a judge would find police had gone too far, calling the betrayal of trust between father and son an abuse of process that would "shock the community."

"It amounted to particularly manipulative trickery of (the boy)," Ontario Court Judge Susan MacLean wrote last month in declaring the boy's statements to his father inadmissible.

The boy, now 17, was still found guilty of manslaughter after his younger brother told the court he had witnessed the boy hitting his nephew many times with a belt. This week, he was sentenced to 17 months' probation, with an emphasis on intensive rehabilitation and counselling.

Even though a conviction was obtained, the unusual case has put police agencies on notice: tread carefully when using civilians as agents, especially when using parents to undercut their children.

"The potential long-term harm on a young person has to be considered," said Jason Rabinovitch, the boy's lawyer. "A parent should be the one person a child should be able to trust."

A Durham police spokesman said Friday he was waiting for a response from the agency's legal department.

In the summer of 2013, the boy, then 15, was often left to look after his 10-year-old brother and his half-sister's three younger children in a sparsely furnished Bowmanville, Ont., home, while his mother worked.
One evening, emergency responders got a 911 call saying one of the children, a four-year-old boy, was not breathing. He later died in hospital from multiple, bluntimpact injuries.

Durham investigators enlisted the help of the boy's estranged father, who has a criminal record and was absent for most of the boy's life.

Before each encounter with his son, the father met with police and was given instructions on how to build rapport.

Police gave the father a pair of Nike Air Jordan running shoes to give as a birthday present and money so he could take him out for dinner. He was also given the keys to a rental car.

Officers told the father not to initiate discussion about the homicide. At most, he could say something like, "I know you're going through some shit right now and you know I'm here for you."

But after the few meetings didn't yield much information, police changed tack in March 2014. They rented out a room at a Super 8 motel where the father could "hang out" with his son. This time, they told him to bring up the death.

Police had recently arrested the boy's mother for failing to provide the necessities of life and the father was told to use the arrest to tell his son he was worried what might happen to him.

"C'mon, we need to talk about this," police told him to say. At the same time, they cautioned the father to watch his tone - never threaten or intimidate the boy.

Ultimately, the boy never confessed to hurting his nephew. But the Crown still pushed for the boy's statements to be admitted because he was unequivocal in saying his younger brother had no role in the death, leaving only one other suspect - him.

However, the judge would not allow the evidence, noting the father had not heeded police instructions and became "relentless" in his attempts to get the boy to talk.

The father repeatedly attempted to undermine the boy's wishes to remain silent, used "moral suasion" and "guilt," and repeatedly told the boy he had his interests at heart - which was a lie.

"Well, that's what you need to get through your thick skull, so yo, your dad is here for you," he said to his son at one point. "You know what I mean? Your dad loves you B."

Moments later, he said: "I can't, cannot force you to, if you don't want to tell me certain things or you have things in your mind and you don't want to ... want to keep it all
boarded up inside, it's up to you. But just know that me, my mom ... a lot of people aren't sleeping at night because everybody want to know what happened."

Stopping short of saying police should never use a parent as a police agent, the judge found the father's emotional and financial inducements in this case went too far and "may well have irreparably damaged any potential future relationship between them."

"Since he was acting as an agent of the state, (the father's) misconduct must be treated as police misconduct, even if the police never intended for him to act this way," the judge wrote.

"This misconduct offends the community's sense of fair play and decency."

The judge was also troubled by the fact the father was re-introduced to his son when the boy was cut off from communicating with his mother.

Under the law, young offenders are entitled to consult a parent before speaking to police. In this instance, the only parent available to him for advice - his father - was a police agent.

The case wasn't a traditional "Mr. Big" sting operation - where undercover cops recruit an accused person into a fictitious criminal organization with the aim of extracting a confession about a past crime during a meeting with the gang's boss.

Nonetheless, the judge's reaction shows how last year's Supreme Court of Canada decision tightening rules on the use of the Mr. Big technique has led to greater scrutiny of manipulative police tactics, said Jonathan Dawe, a criminal lawyer in Toronto.

Credit: Douglas Quan; National Post
Appendix 9 – articled 9 (codified) Man/Neglect

Homeopath father loses custody of autistic kids


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1736886056?accountid=14771

An Ontario father has lost custody of his children in part because he refused to stop trying to cure their autism through homeopathy.

"Not only were these treatments not effective, but they had negative effects," reads a court decision granting sole custody to the children's mother.

The father, a 48-year-old computer programmer in the Greater Toronto Area, will now see the children three weekends a month, with shared access during holidays.

The two boys, aged nine and 10, suffer from "severe and profound" autism spectrum disorder. They do not speak, are not toilet-trained or able to dress or feed themselves.

At an October hearing, the children's mother sought a court order barring her former husband from administering homeopathic treatments, arguing he was pointlessly looking for a 'cure' for autism rather than trying to find a method of managing autism."

Homeopathy, developed in Germany in the early 19th century, is an alternative therapy that holds that diseases can be cured by giving patients remedies that cause the same symptoms as the original illness.

Some homeopaths will intensely dilute their medicines to the point where a dose may only contain one or two molecules of the "active" ingredient.

Before the Ontario Court of Justice, the mother argued that a homeopathic remedy intended to reduce one boy's spasms instead made him "very aggressive."

"He would not stop hitting everyone and it took about two weeks for the behaviour to stop and for him to return to his normal state," say court documents.

Another time, the father refused to administer prescribed antibiotics for an infected cut on the nine-yearold's finger. Instead, he intentionally kept the child from his mother while attempting to treat the infection with homeopathic remedies. Ultimately, medical care was only one of several issues that coloured the custody hearing in which both parents sought sole custody.
Justice Roselyn Zisman was particularly critical of the father's refusal to see his children during the summer, and his threat to institutionalize the children unless his $500-a-month child-support payments were lowered.

"If you cannot handle the children I suggest foster care, institutionalizing them, or cover my child expenses so I can take them," wrote the man in a July text to his ex-wife.

As Zisman wrote, "the father's decision not to see the children is the most glaring example of his inability to put the children's needs before his own need to control and punish the mother."

Credit: Tristin Hopper; National Post
Appendix 10 – articled 10 (codified) Woman/Active

Tough Gig: Card-carrying feminist and devoted mom Sarah Hampson considers two new books on child care - one a firm call for men to be even partners in the job, the other an epic attachment ode to the primacy of mama. Surprisingly, she finds something they can all agree on: parenting deserves way more respect


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1722313137?accountid=14771

Recently, at the wedding of my middle son, the speech by the best man had the room in laughter and tears. My eldest son gave it. He talked about their childhood, how they're only 18 months apart, deeply connected in their memories and experiences, how he liked to drive Dinky Toys on his younger brother's newborn body, how they fought and wrestled, and how, as adults, they have grown to love one another.

At one point, the elder son recalled something I had started with all three of my boys as children. When we were somewhere special, on holiday or on an outing in the country, I would ask them to take in their surroundings and together we would create Memory No. 1 and Memory No. 2 and so on.

It might be the way the leaves of a tree looked against a brilliant blue sky, the feel of the sun on the skin, the title of the book I was reading to them and the closeness of lying in a hammock together. Remember this, I would say, notice the exact details, how it feels, so that when we're back home in Toronto, in the middle of the winter, slogging through homework and struggling through snow, we can invoke the memory and be transported. It worked. And it became a bit of a larky tradition. At the wedding, he relayed this story and then, looking at his brother and new sister-in-law, told them that right now, surrounded by friends and family, this was one more of those moments to mark indelibly in the mind. To do so, time slows down, he said. You realize what matters; what endures; what creates happiness.

Well, I was crying at that point. I was surprised (and delighted) that something I had done spontaneously in a quirky mom moment with rambunctious toddlers had stuck with them through the years. (And I was relieved that he chose to recall one of my better moments as a parent.) It underscored why I feel largely defined by motherhood, even though I would never have said that's what I wanted as a young woman.

I thought about the role of caregiver recently when reading two new books on the subject: Unfinished Business by AnneMarie Slaughter and Mama: Love, Motherhood and Revolution by Antonella Gambotto-Burke. They both argue that caregiving should be more valued in society. But their approach is different.
Slaughter is the mother of two teenaged boys who famously left her high-profile job as the first female director of policy planning at the U.S. State Department to return to her full-time tenured position as a professor at Princeton University so she could have more flexibility to spend time with her family. For her, the role of caregiving should be freed of gender expectations. Slaughter exhorts women to let go of cultural assumptions that children need their mother most and that only she does it best. (Her husband was the primary caregiver when she worked in Washington and was fully supportive of her career choices.) She suggests a number of changes - a continued movement for men to define masculinity as more than breadwinners, more government-supported, quality child care, less stigmatization in the workplace about parental leave, more emphasis in the social realm on who we are beyond the job title. But the thrust of her book is about gender equity in child-care responsibilities so that women are free to pursue their careers should they choose to.

Gambotto-Burke, on the other hand, puts the responsibility of quality child care squarely on the shoulders of mothers. Her book, comprised of memoir essays interspersed with a series of interviews with child-care experts (such as Steve Biddulph on the outsourcing of care; Lysa Parker on how attachment parenting prevents societal violence; and Canada's Gabor Mate on the influence of childhood experiences on the brain and later outcomes such as addiction), is about mama - not about how mama and papa can share caregiving responsibilities.

An advocate of attachment parenting, she wants an attachment society, one that resolves its paradoxical approach to motherhood, which is sentimentalized in popular culture at the same time as it's undervalued as a "menial job," a sort of consolation prize for women who can't cut it in the workplace.

This juxtaposition of mother as all-powerful caregiver versus the call to share the role with others is interesting and points to something few women want to admit. Motherhood is not something you can organize ahead of time like buying a house. It is an emotional upheaval and a connection of deep, fierce, unconditional love that is not the same as you will find in any other relationship.

Maybe part of the problem in achieving gender equity is that some mothers don't want to give that up.

Even Slaughter acknowledges the devastation she felt the first time one of her sons woke in the middle of the night and called out for daddy, not mommy. She thought she might have been feeling guilt. "I'm his mother," she writes (her italics). "Kids are supposed to call for their mother. If he's not calling for me, then I must not be a good mom." But upon reflection, she realized she felt envy. We all want to be needed.

For all the talk about wanting a great career outside the home, perhaps some women are reluctant to completely let go of the one role society has long said only they can inhabit. It's their domain, their area of proclaimed expertise in a world where men get top spot at everything else and now they have to share that, too? Certainly, one can
read Gambotto-Burke's book as a celebration of the biological bond between mother and child, an epic journey of exclusive love and intimacy. And sure, this intense mothering (aka the Mommy Mystique) can be seen as a guilt trip for working moms and a justification for the choice to stay home. But if we can set aside her emphasis on "mama," and step outside the heated stay-at-home versus working mother debate, this book could also be interpreted as a deep dive into the role of caring for offspring - one that gives us a better understanding and a newfound appreciation for this, yes, historically female occupation.

I write that and I laugh at myself. I went to Smith College, for goodness sake, a feminist all women's institution where Betty Friedan, also an alumna, did her famous survey at her 15th reunion to discover "the problem that had no name," which became the basis for her seminal work, The Feminine Mystique, in 1963. Being a mother would not be my primary identity for a meaningful life, I had thought. It wasn't a matter of not wanting to be a mother; I simply saw it as something that could be added on to an interesting, professional life - an added value, I suppose. Some mother-feminist writers (Angela Barron McBride in The Growth and Development of Mothers, published in 1973, for example) criticized Friedan for skirtng motherhood and its value. But few took notice. The die was cast. We had concluded that it was a cultural construction of gender, marriage and motherhood that was to blame for keeping women at home. As a result, the notion of emotional attachment or the intellectual inquiry and personal exploration that caregiving can invite was rarely discussed.

When I married and began having children, three within five years, starting in my mid-20s, it didn't take long for me to realize what many women do: I had a great job outside the home, but I wasn't paid enough to make it worthwhile to pay for good child care. Still, I believed in the hope and promise of equity; I persevered. I worked fulltime through all their early years, taking only a few months off with each birth, and then, with the third, came home to develop a freelance career with a combination of babysitters and occasional daycare, when required. I could have chosen not to work outside the home.

But I didn't want to abandon my ambitions and career interests. I simply leaned out, opting for work that was still intense, still competitive, but which also allowed me to keep home as the epicentre of my life as a writer and mother (and occasional baker of cookies). Later, when I divorced, I had no choice. I had to lean in again. But I never regretted those years of being the primary caregiver.

Societal expectation may have had something to do with it - mothers who have little to do with their children's upbringing are treated with deep suspicion if not as social pariahs, and Lord help them if their children turn out poorly - but fundamentally it was a personal, emotional decision for my own well-being.

And it made me who I am, teaching me more than any other activity in my life, not just about myself, strengths as well as shortcomings, but also about the stuff of life -
compassion, generosity, motivating others and the effort to develop people into sound human beings. And that only covers a fraction of it.

Being a caregiver, you see the charm of life, too, explaining to a toddler why the world looks upside down in the puddles on the sidewalk, for example. And you get to witness the profound beauty of innocent curiosity - about death, about the world, about how to navigate it.

Which makes GambottoBurke's desire to value motherhood understandable. Many can contribute more to the world as mothers of the next generation than they ever would selling Dentyne gum and other consumer products by writing television commercials for an ad agency (my first career). Once, during a contentious work issue, I told a female friend, who is childless, that I felt like descending into domesticity. She clucked with alarm, as though my comment had been about wanting to wimp out. But it wasn't. It was simply that I felt there was more meaning in the rough and tumble of the home scene than there was in some stupid power dynamic at work.

Still, it's regressive to think that only mothers have the capacity to love and care for their children. If they choose to, fine.

But no one should feel that their children are as good as doomed unless they breastfeed them for years, co-sleep, home-school and lavish them with exclusive maternal attention (as Gambotto-Burke suggests). Please.

Slaughter convincingly defeats this way of thinking by pointing to same-sex marriages, in which child care is never a gender issue.

The point is that no matter how you choose to accommodate the desire and need to care for others in your life, it should be valued. It should be acknowledged with more than lip service and vague promises from politicians for a social infrastructure of quality, accessible child care for the 3.8 million families with children in Canada. The grey tsunami is coming as well, so it's not just child care but elder care that will necessitate a shift in what we deem important.

And if we saw care as more than a wimp-out, non-ambitious option, no matter who gave it, then society could get closer to the gender equity it purports to want.
Appendix 11 – articled 11 (codified) Transgender/Active

'I really felt I was a girl': The human rights, health issues and social challenges experienced by people with changed or changing gender identities stepped beyond the activism of a few to become mainstream policy debates of governments, schools and health institutions in 2015. James Goldie, a winner of Langara's Read-Mercer scholarship, examined the personal journeys of three people at different points along the path. Clayre Sessoms completed her transition with surgery in October.

http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1750358837?accountid=14771

In the centre of the Sessoms family dinner table are two white candles, decorated by hand with bright paints and heart shapes. "I love my family" is written inside one of the hearts, in the unmistakable scrawl of a six-year-old.

The candles were Mother's Day gifts for Clayre Sessoms and her wife, Lisa, and were made at school by their daughter, Li. The budding artist got to make two candles because she has two mothers - which wasn't always the case.

"We're lucky in that regard, that we have that kind of support," Clayre says about Elsie Roy Elementary School, where Li is in Grade 2.

This is the second year that Clayre, a 38-year-old copywriter who works from home, received Mother's Day art. It wasn't until 2013 that she began her continuing transition from the name and gender she was assigned at birth - a boy named Carey - to her true self, a woman named Clayre.

"Father's Day is kind of awkward, but we spend it all on grandpa," she says.

For Clayre, family has been the cornerstone of her transition, and continues to be after her October surgery in Montreal.

Clayre was born in St. Pauls, N.C., a town of 2,000 with close to 50 churches. It's the Bible Belt through and through. Like many transgender people growing up, Clayre felt there had been some sort of mistake; that she was living in the wrong body. When the film adaptation of Annie was released in 1982, Clayre wanted to be the little redheaded orphan.

"I remember standing on the table singing Tomorrow," she says. It wasn't about playing dress-up in girl's clothing. "I really felt I was a girl."

By the end of high school, Clayre already knew she wanted to one day live as a woman.
She wasn’t sure when that transition would take place, but it was clear she needed to escape rural North Carolina.

She moved to Vancouver for school in her early 20s and fell in love with the city. She also fell in love with Lisa.

Their first date was coffee at an overcrowded café.

Lisa invited Clayre to her apartment around the corner where they wound up chatting and sharing laughs for more than six hours.

"We just talked and ate leftover Chinese food from her night before," Clayre says.

"That was actually from the week before," Lisa says. "But you were okay."

They clicked right away.

Clayre had made a promise to herself long before that she would disclose her gender identity early when dating someone.

She had heard too many stories of heartbreak and relationships ending badly when one person comes out as transgender.

"It wasn't always easy. I would usually come out by the third or fourth date. I had a lot of third dates," she says. "But with Lisa, I came out to her as 'gender questioning,' and it was no big deal."

They married in 2003, always knowing that some day Clayre would transition. Still, it would be more than a decade before anyone other than Lisa would meet Clayre, the woman on the inside.

There was always something preventing her from taking that next big step. First a family crisis back home in the United States took precedence, then she and Lisa decided to have a child.

Because hormone-replacement therapy typically causes infertility, if they wanted their own biological child it meant Clayre’s physical transition would have to wait. After Li was born, Clayre’s parents relocated to Vancouver for a year to be close and lend a hand with the baby.

"They actually moved right across the hall," Lisa says. "It was sort of like Everybody Loves Raymond."

It was a busy time for the new family, and adding transitioning to the mix just felt like too much.
But in 2013, the couple decided it was time. Clayre began hormone-replacement therapy. She made an announcement with Lisa on Facebook to all their friends. Some distanced themselves and eventually disappeared from the Sessoms' lives, but overall the response they received was positive.

The news shocked Clayre's parents. Her mother, Charlotte, acknowledges that she and her husband initially shed some tears of grief, overwhelmed by the fact "that things were so different than we thought they were." But Charlotte and her husband were relieved to hear that Clayre and Lisa were not splitting up because of the transition. Lisa identified as bisexual when she first met Clayre, so the idea of her husband someday becoming her wife had never scared her.

Outside the Sessoms household has been a different story for Clayre.

Walking her daughter to school each morning, Clayre frequently has negative comments directed at her - everything from "sicko" to "faggot" to being deliberately called "dude."

When these moments occur in front of Li, Clayre sits down with her and explains why saying those things is wrong. The comments make Li confused, and she's getting tired of having so many conversations about transphobia and discrimination.

"She's sort of done talking about it," Clayre says.

In October, Clayre underwent vaginoplasty - the removal of male genitalia and the creation of a vagina. Gender surgery below the waist is typically referred to as "bottom surgery" or "lower surgery." For people in British Columbia, lower surgeries are covered by the province's medical services plan (MSP) but the only place in Canada where they are performed is at a private clinic in Montreal.

Clayre was approved for provincial funding for her surgery in Montreal. The MSP only pays for the operation, so Clayre and Lisa had to cover the travel costs themselves.

"Coming out and doing hormones, I thought everything would just magically roll along, but actually it takes a little longer than that. It's a little more work."

Patients seeking publicly funded lower surgery must undergo two surgical readiness assessments by qualified professionals, who report on a patient's mental health, medical history and social history.

Waiting times for these assessments can be more than a year, which is why Clayre paid out of pocket for one from Melady Preece, British Columbia's only approved surgical assessor, working through her own private practice.

"We just want to make sure people aren't jumping into something without enough preparation," Dr. Preece says from her Vancouver office. "I don't see myself as a
gatekeeper ... I just, as a responsible professional, want to make sure people don't put themselves in a position they can't cope with."

Some of the factors Dr. Preece considers when assessing patients' social history include whether they have lived openly for at least one year in the gender role with which they identify, and if they have a support network, like Clayre does with her family.

"My family has given me the time and the space and the support needed to go to Montreal, to have the surgery, to fly home safely and, most importantly, to recover day after day," Clayre says.

The recovery process hasn't been easy so far, which Clayre says has been more time consuming and exhausting than she anticipated. She's also been surprised by what she describes as "little knowledge or support from B.C. health care" in terms of postoperative care.

"One doctor tells me I'm fine.

Another doctor asks me if they put my balls in a jar," she says.

Clayre doesn't know how she would do without help from her wife, parents and daughter.

"My kid has kept me engaged, entertained and even laughing throughout this [process]," she says.

Li was five years old when Clayre came out and was completely nonplussed by the change. It's the same two years later. Li is more interested in showing off her new pet cat or her crafts made from elastic bands than talking about when her dad became her mom.

Still, questions do come up.

"When's your voice going to change? Because when you talk, you sound like a dad," she asked once. Clayre's response was that it just takes time.

Because being transgender means different things to different people, there's no single answer as to when a person's transition "finishes."

"When will it all be done?" Li has asked.

Clayre laughs at the memory.

"That's a reflection of society, right? 'When are you going to be finished? When can I stop this trying to figure out your pronouns?' "
Read-Mercer scholarships, established four years ago, are awarded annually to four Langara students to produce major works of journalism.

The Globe and Mail has published the projects of two of the winners. James Goldie's series on gender transitioning runs this week. Mary Beach's work on learning disabilities can be found here: http://tgam.ca/dyslexia
'Are you Santa?': How one mother answered her daughter

Marlene Leung, CTVNews.ca Staff
Published Monday, December 21, 2015 6:30AM EST

http://www.ctvnews.ca/lifestyle/are-you-santa-how-one-mother-answered-her-daughter-1.2699453

It's a problem parents of every generation have had to face: What do you do when your children start asking if Santa is real?

Seattle-based author Martha Brockenbrough was faced with this very dilemma six years ago, when her nine-year-old daughter Lucy asked her for the “truth” about Santa.

Brockenbrough, who at the time was writing for the parenting website Cozi, came up with a heartwarming letter explaining the "truth." The letter was published online, and has since gone viral.

She agreed to let CTVNews.ca publish the letter here below, so that readers may also use it if they like.

'A love letter to my child'

Brockenbrough said that even though Lucy is now 15, the letter still holds a very special place for her family.

At the time that she composed it, she and her daughter – who is dyslexic - had been writing letters back and forth to each other.

"I wanted to find a way to encourage her to write and ask anything, and I would always write a reply," she told CTVNews.ca, adding that she had already taken to writing short notes to her daughter as the Tooth Fairy.

But one day, Lucy saw a partially written letter from the "Tooth Fairy" on Brockenbrough's computer. Shocked, she wrote to her mother and demanded to know the "truth," on whether or not she was also Santa.

"She had been kind of asking about it for a while," Brockenbrough said. "But when she put the 'TRUTH' in all capital letters, I knew I had to tell her.

"When a kid asks for the truth, you cannot give them fantasy. So I sat down to write a reply, and this just sort of emerged."
The mother of two said that when she sat down to write the letter, she simply thought about her feelings on family, love, giving and gratitude and let the words flow from there.

"It's what we give to each other, and all the love and thought and care we show," she said. "It's not all about presents, as much as it is learning to believe in the magic of the world, and us to take care of each other as humans."

Once the letter went online, the response was immediate, Brockenbrough said, noting that most parents seem to really love it.

She attributes its success to the fact that it is honest, but doesn't crush the fantasy for the child.

"We want to tell our children the truth, but we don't necessarily want to make the world seem empty of magic," she said.

Natalie Coulter, an assistant professor of communication studies at York University, said part of the enduring legacy of Santa Claus stems from our desire to keep the magic of Christmas alive for our children.

"I think it's really nostalgic for us to think about the fact that our children have these romantic notions of fantasy and imagination," she told CTVNews.ca. "There is a really beautiful side to that -- that children still unquestionably believe in this benevolent person."

However, when your children do start to ask questions about the veracity of Santa, Coulter said parents can open up the discussion to talk about the general importance of charity and generosity.

"When your child starts getting older, you can involve them into being part of that magic, and that pleasure and generosity of giving," she said. "And now that they know about Santa, they can be part of that pleasure."

Coulter noted, however, that parents should explain to their children that every family has different beliefs about Santa, and that even though they are now in on "the secret," they shouldn't tell their friends.

"It's not their job to tell other kids," she said. "That's a way to continue with the spirit of Santa, to believe in that joy and pleasure. And if you're telling people before they're ready, you're taking away that spirit and belief."

Meanwhile, Brockenbrough's letter has been so well-received that she has agreed to publish it as a children's picture book, which is set for release in 2017. However, she notes, the letter was never intended to come out as book.
"It was really just a love letter to my child," she said, noting that her younger daughter, Alice, also eventually asked for the "truth" about Santa.

Brockenbrough’s older daughter Lucy, now 15, says that at first she was angry that her younger sister was told the truth about Santa, as she hoped to keep up the “magic” of the story for longer. However, she’s happy she and her sister now get to participate in new holiday traditions.

"It’s hilarious that my mother doesn’t even try to hide the presents now," she said in an email. "Now, Alice and I can contribute to present buying and choosing. I honestly think it makes everything a whole lot easier."

**The letter:**

*Dear Lucy,*

Thank you for your letter. You asked a very good question: “Are you Santa?”

I know you’ve wanted the answer to this question for a long time, and I’ve had to give it careful thought to know just what to say.

The answer is no. I am not Santa. There is no one Santa.

I am the person who fills your stockings with presents, though. I also choose and wrap the presents under the tree, the same way my mom did for me, and the same way her mom did for her. (And yes, Daddy helps, too.)

I imagine you will someday do this for your children, and I know you will love seeing them run down the stairs on Christmas morning. You will love seeing them sit under the tree, their small faces lit with Christmas lights.

This won’t make you Santa, though.

Santa is bigger than any person, and his work has gone on longer than any of us have lived. What he does is simple, but it is powerful. He teaches children how to have belief in something they can't see or touch.

It’s a big job, and it’s an important one. Throughout your life, you will need this capacity to believe: in yourself, in your friends, in your talents and in your family. You’ll also need to believe in things you can’t measure or even hold in your hand. Here, I am talking about love, that great power that will light your life from the inside out, even during its darkest, coldest moments.

Santa is a teacher, and I have been his student, and now you know the secret of how he gets down all those chimneys on Christmas Eve: he has help from all the people whose hearts he’s filled with joy.
With full hearts, people like Daddy and me take our turns helping Santa do a job that would otherwise be impossible.

So, no. I am not Santa. Santa is love and magic and hope and happiness. I'm on his team, and now you are, too.

I love you and I always will.

Mama
Old Order Mennonite man jailed for assaulting children

Josh Crabb, CTV Winnipeg
Published Wednesday, December 2, 2015 5:46PM CST
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http://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/old-order-mennonite-man-jailed-for-assaulting-children-1.2684121

A Manitoba man from an Old Order Mennonite community has been sentenced to six months in jail for repeatedly abusing children.

The man pled guilty to six counts of assault with a weapon and one count of common assault.

It’s connected to the apprehension of dozens of children from the community two years ago.

The man was sentenced on Tuesday in Minnedosa, Man. and admitted to "physically disciplining" seven children, using a "leather strap" on six of them including his own daughter.

University of Winnipeg Mennonite Studies professor Royden Loewen said news of the abuse left the tight-knit, horse and buggy community shocked.

"I think everybody agrees this community sort of went off the rails," said Loewen. "This was an unusual and very bizarre situation, so this is not typical Old Order Mennonite behaviour."

In June 2013, around 40 children from infants to teenagers were apprehended by Child and Family Services following accusations boys and girls were beaten with cattle prods, leather straps and whips.

In his decision, Judge John Combs said the man sentenced "participated in systematic physical and psychological abuse of numerous children over an extended period of time."

Combs said the abuse happened "to extort confessions and punishment for imagined sins.""These were planned and deliberate acts done by a group of men in concert," he said.

In his remarks, Combs said “controlling members” of the community were behind “the severe discipline of young children.”
He said it was because of "some misguided and ludicrous belief that these children were involved in sexual activity with family members or had impure thoughts."

Loewen, who has visited the community, said residents have taken the incident seriously and have since rebuilt a sense of trust for their neighbours.

"My sense is there's lots of healing that's occurred within the community; the children are back and old relationships are being restored," said Loewen.

Thirteen people were arrested in July 2013, but several of the charges were dropped.

Court heard three other members of the community have admitted involvement, but have yet to be sentenced and remain before the courts.

The crown was asking for between 12 and 18 months jail time.

The judge decided on six months because the man showed genuine remorse and has taken steps to educate himself about the difference between appropriate parenting and abuse.
I feel fairly naked. Which at my age isn’t something any sensible person should volunteer to do. Yet, here I am. All out.

The public striptease which led to a memoir began two years ago on W5 as I hosted a Scribble Live online forum, while our feature story aired about how a family coped with their son coming out over a number of months.

Scott Heggart and his family were brave and vulnerable as they shared with Canadians the unique challenges of parenting an LGBTQ child through their journey to honesty. A story I knew intimately through my own son, Alex, coming out 10 years earlier. As the profile ended in each time zone I saw the same pattern in the concurrent online conversations: Scribble Live came to life. Hundreds of Canadians were sharing their relief that W5 had brought them inside a family dynamic they too shared, but had never seen explored in depth. There was a clear hunger for more. So I raised the idea with my family of writing a book.

Initially I approached our publisher, Random House Canada, with the concept of my family exploring the coming out process from four perspectives: Alex’s, my wife Cathy’s, my daughter Erica’s, and mine. And for months we wrote that narrative until our editor and guide, Kate Fillion, concluded the bigger and better story was between my son and I.

Our relationship hadn’t grown over the years the way my wife’s and daughter’s had with him. Part of the reason was my very demanding career, but the other part (which I was unaware of) was his belief that I didn’t truly embrace his life. I easily accepted his sexuality, tolerated his frequent public displays of affection, but I had some difficulty embracing all of gay ‘culture’. And that drove a wedge between us the book has helped heal.

Building that bridge took being much more public about my life than I intended to be as I started writing. As Alex wrote his chapters in isolation, and I wrote mine, Kate recognized that Alex’s writing was much more intimate and his willingness to bare all was creating a lop-sided narrative. I had to dig deeper, question more, and confront things about myself I would have preferred remained in the nice neat construct that was my public life before the book. As a storyteller I had shaped my profile and largely
retained control over how I was perceived. I had to be talked into converting the book into a father and son memoir and letting go.

There were many compelling arguments for the change in direction, but the one which ultimately convinced me wasn’t among those presented at a lunch between the publisher, Kate and my family. I agreed to start over because I didn’t want to let my son down. Again. If he was willing to be brave about his life, how could I not? And as a journalist, how could I not embrace a level of transparency that I expected of others? So for the next year, whenever work demands ebbed, I would lock myself in a room in our apartment and examine my life’s junk.

Just before ‘All Out’ was finished, and I had the chance to finally read Alex’s chapters, I called him up to make sure he was comfortable with what the world was about to know. I’ve had a 35-year career, but at 29 Alex has a long runway before him and everyone who might hire him would know a lot. He was fine. I was more nervous. He said, “Dad this is your coming out. Don’t worry, everything will change.” That didn’t sound very reassuring.

And it has, in unexpected ways. People who have read the book now approach me with a level of intimacy that at first was unsettling, but now I find comforting. There is much less small talk with strangers and much more real talk as we compare stories of our relationships with our sons, our journeys as men, and the challenges of balancing career and family. I feel I am contributing to a conversation which is still new for many of us, awkward, but rich. And by exposing the ups and downs of my career and family life, every relationship that had atrophied from my lack of attention has been renewed and reset. That’s something I never expected.

There have also been many bonding moments for my son and I as we have travelled together to promote the book, but one stands out. We invited the Heggart family to join us for a book launch party in Ottawa and they graciously accepted. As Alex took the microphone he turned to them and thanked them.

“You didn’t only help give us the idea for this book,” he said, “you gave me something much more important. You helped open my father’s eyes and gave him back to me”.

If by revealing ourselves Alex and I can help pay it forward, the I am proud to stand before you, naked.
Appendix 15 – articulated 15 (codified) Man/Neglect

Dads more likely to kill their kids than moms

Colin Perkel, The Canadian Press
Published Wednesday, October 28, 2015 2:53PM EDT
http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/dads-more-likely-to-kill-their-kids-than-moms-1.2631952

TORONTO -- Contrary to popular perception, Canadian dads are more likely to kill their children than moms are, according to an extensive new study that also finds the gender gap appears to be growing.

The research published in the journal Child Abuse and Neglect could help in devising strategies to prevent the horrors of filicide, study author Myrna Dawson said Wednesday.

"People who kill their children tend not to be evil, they tend to be people who are struggling with very real life events," Dawson, a University of Guelph sociology professor, said in an interview. "Social supports can help reduce the number of these cases."

Dawson, a Canada research chair in criminal justice and public policy, looked at Statistics Canada data from between 1961, when the agency started its annual homicide survey, and 2011, the most recent year for which the information was available. In that time -- one of the longest periods for any study of this kind -- parents killed at least 1,612 children under 18.

Overall, 57 per cent of the accused child killers were men, although the ratio jumps to 90 per cent for stepfathers, according to the research.

While the study did not attempt to delve into details of individual homicides, Dawson said the higher incidence of fathers killing children may simply reflect the fact that men, in general, are more violent than women.

"Another explanation may be that an increasing gender gap in filicidal mothers and fathers is the result of changes in parenting or child-care responsibilities," the research states. "It is believed that fathers spend more time with children than in the past, arguably increasing their time at risk."

Dawson said she was surprised by the size of the gender gap.

"Even research has focused more on female accused," Dawson said. "It may be that there is more horror if a mother kills a child than a father, because we don't expect violence as much from women."
Another finding was that killer fathers tend more than mothers to be motivated by revenge or sexual jealousy.

The research also found:

- Female accused tend to be under 18 and likely single or never married;
- Males dominate older age groups and tend to be divorced, separated or widowed;
- Most accused are biological parents;
- When stepchildren are killed, nine of 10 accused are the stepfathers;
- Fathers are more likely than mothers to commit suicide after killing a child.

Dawson said further research is needed on parental-leave policies in terms of stresses on parents and the changing roles of mothers and fathers in child care. Experts also need to pay more attention to family violence involving stepchildren given the increasing numbers of blended families.

"We've learned that domestic homicides are actually probably one of the most preventable types of homicide," Dawson said.

Several child-killings have made the news in recent months: A Winnipeg woman was charged with killing her two-month-old daughter, a Montreal man killed his 10-month-old son and then himself, a woman threw her six-month-old child from an apartment in New York City.

"There are often risk markers, there are often situational factors; if there was public and professional awareness of the risks to children, there may have been more immediate interventions."
Appendix 16 – articed 16 (codified) Man/Neglect

A most violent year: 2015 saw changes for domestic abuse victims

Chris Purdy, The Canadian Press
Published Friday, December 18, 2015 6:34AM EST

http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/a-most-violent-year-2015-saw-changes-for-domestic-abuse-victims-1.2705506

EDMONTON -- The crooked middle finger on Maria Fitzpatrick's left hand is a reminder of the secret she didn't share with many people.

There were other broken bones, black eyes and bruises that healed. There were the times her husband raped her and threatened to kill her and their two daughters.

Three decades after escaping her violent marriage, Fitzpatrick -- a newly elected Alberta politician -- stood up in the legislature and told her story to the world.

It was time.

With a knot in her stomach, the 66-year-old grandmother brought many to tears with her speech in November. She ended it with an appeal for support of a new law allowing victims of domestic violence to break housing leases without penalty.

In the '70s, an apartment Fitzpatrick shared with her abusive husband was rented in her name and she feared that if she skipped out she wouldn't be able to rent anywhere else. The women's shelters she fled to only let her stay for two weeks. Then she and her children would have to go home again.

"I will be horrified if anybody in this chamber votes against this bill," Fitzpatrick said.

She received a standing ovation and the bill passed.

Several high-profile crimes in 2015 shone a light on the scourge of domestic violence in Canada. Provincial governments across the country have proposed changes to better protect domestic abuse victims and advocates hope that push continues in the year ahead.

Manitoba has introduced new legislation to make it easier for courts to grant protection orders and -- in what it calls a first in Canada -- will confiscate guns from anyone named in such orders. It also plans to change its Employment Standards Code so victims of domestic violence can take time off work without losing their jobs.

The changes came too late to help two women killed in Winnipeg this year.
Selena Keeper had applied in the spring for a protection order against her boyfriend. And, although she told court he regularly beat her -- even when she was pregnant -- she wasn't granted one because it was determined she was not in imminent danger. She was beaten to death in October; her boyfriend is charged with murder.

Camille Runke did get a protection order against her estranged husband, a gun owner. She called police 22 times to report violations of the order and was shot in October outside her workplace. Her husband later committed suicide.

In Saskatchewan, the government decided to start reviewing deaths linked to domestic violence, a process already in place in other provinces.

One of the reviews is likely to be the case of Latasha Gosling and three of her children, who were slain in April in their mobile home in Tisdale, Sask. A friend reported that Gosling had just broken up with her boyfriend, who others described as controlling and jealous with mental issues. Relatives of the woman said her killer took pictures of the bodies and sent copies to the children's biological father before taking his own life.

The worst mass murder in Edmonton's history left eight victims. Phu Lam gunned down his estranged wife, son and others before killing himself last December. Court records revealed that Thuy Tien Truong previously told police her husband had threatened to kill her after finding out his son was not his biological child.

The crime had police and community groups calling for more public awareness of domestic violence.

The latest statistics available show 126 people were killed during domestic violence in Canada in 2013. Alberta's Family Violence Death Review Committee, which is examining the Edmonton mass murder and other cases, counted 97 domestic homicide victims in the province between 2008 and 2014.

"Every time I hear about a homicide related to domestic violence, it saddens me and shocks me," said committee member Debra Tomlinson, head of the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Centres. "At the same, I feel encouraged that we're recognizing the death was related to domestic violence."

Tomlinson has seen more awareness of the issue in recent years, and hopes that will lead to more people recognizing abusive relationships and more victims seeking help.

Fellow review committee member Lana Wells, a University of Calgary researcher, said the answer starts with gender equality.

She's recommending Ottawa increase parental leave and make it mandatory for fathers to take it. Men who do more parenting and housework may better appreciate their spouses, she said.
Wells also wants to see more support for fathers and education for boys about healthy relationships. She said Alberta is the first province to specifically include an "engaging men and boys" strategy in its domestic violence plan, which she recently presented at the United Nations.

"When you have healthy dads raising healthy children, they usually end up in healthy relationships."

Fitzpatrick, who has received countless messages since her speech, agrees that better parenting and gender equality are key.

"If we can do this, the entire world would be a different place."
Appendix 17 – articulated 17 (codified) Man/Passive

The dad who wasn't there: I spent years hoping and believing that a father, any father, would show up on my doorstep. I needed a miracle


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1762267410?accountid=14771

I was 8 when the weight of my father's absence hit my heart full force.

I was attending our annual street party and an impromptu dance session had erupted on a neighbour’s driveway. Dancing with some friends, swaying my little-girl hips, I felt the cool breeze on my tanned bare legs.

I closed my eyes, singing the latest 1998 pop hit. When I opened them the song was over, and a slow song started to play.

My friends ran off to their respective homes, and I was left standing alone, overcome by emotion as I watched a picture-perfect scene before me.

A young girl of about 4 was dancing with her mom and dad, sandwiched between their embrace. I could feel the love between the two parents like an electric shock through my little body. The girl didn’t look much different than me. As Whitney Houston sang When You Believe, I stood immobile, entranced by this endearing moment of a young family.

In an instant, I felt a cloud of grief wash over me. Tears began streaming down my cheeks. I remember running as fast as I could, my feet pounding on the pavement as my heart beat wildly in my chest. I found my mom on our porch and hugged her around the waist, sobbing.

In that moment, I felt the loss of my father in a way I never had before. It wasn't the last time I was overcome with emotion over my father, but it was the first I can remember. I still recall clearly the words from Houston's hit song, “there can be miracles, when you believe.” They poured salt on my wounds.

I had spent many years hoping and believing that a father, any father, would miraculously show up on my doorstep. I spent my childhood poring over books about orphaned children, begging God for my own Daddy Warbucks to rescue me.

Almost 20 years later, I am a fatherless woman who remembers that day clearly, and many more like it.
My father left my mother when she was seven months pregnant with me, and, aside from the occasional awkward Saturday visit, my dad was not a presence in my life.

At first, I didn't notice the absence of a man I had never known. My childhood was idyllic.

I lived in a comfortable home, surrounded by toys that I never had to share with a sibling. My mother worked for Via Rail, and I have many memories of long train rides, listening to the hum of the train moving along the tracks. My mom took me to picturesque Belfountain Conservation Area every fall. I would grab clumps of crunchy brown and yellow leaves and throw them at the sky. I was a voracious reader, and spent hours immersed in books by Beverly Cleary, Ann. M. Martin and Lois Lowry.

But as I grew into a young woman I felt a gaping hole inside me. It grew bigger and bigger as the years passed: no father to bring to the father-daughter dance at church; no father to wave at me as I danced on stage, no father to high-five me after I hit a home run in baseball. As these moments passed, the hole seemed to get bigger until it was impossible to notice much else.

A few days before I left for university, my dad called to speak with me. I remember his words: "There's no point in going to university, Brianna. I only completed 11th grade, and I did fine."

His words cut deep. I was the first person in my family to attend university, and I'd worked hard to get there. His reasons for calling were self-preserving, I knew: If I didn't attend university, he would not be legally bound to provide financially. My heart still ached. My father wasn't proud of me.

I ended up graduating from university, getting married and having two children of my own.

Through it all, I continued to believe in miracles. I longed for my Dad to enter my life, or for my mom to remarry and find a man who would adopt me. I hoped for a happy ending to this part of my story, but it never seemed to work out.

I remember many moments when my mom asked me: "Aren't I good enough for you?" It was hard to answer that question when she had sacrificed so much to raise me. She had been a wonderful single mother, and I always choked back a sob as I nodded: "Yes, you're enough."

It wasn't until I became an adult with my own family that I realized how hard she had worked, and how difficult it must have been for her.
Even though my father never did fill that gaping hole, I have found enough love in my life that sometimes my heart seems to be bursting with it all. In my heart, I carry the love of my mother, my ever-attentive husband, our two young daughters, and my caring in-laws.

I will never forget the moment when my life truly did come full circle, a few years ago.

My first daughter was newly born, and my husband turned on some music, picking up our sleeping infant. He cradled her in his arms and started swaying back and forth, softly singing in her ear. Then he grabbed my hand and drew me close to him. I wrapped my arms around my small family and swayed my hips back and forth. I closed my eyes and remembered that moment 20 years ago. I wished that little family well, and smiled at my own.

Whitney was right. When you believe, miracles do come true.

Brianna Bell lives in Guelph, Ont.

Submissions: facts@globeandmail.com

We want your personal stories.

See the guidelines on our website tgam.ca/essayguide
Appendix 18 – articed 18 (codified) Man/Neglect

Biker kingpin and daughter charged: Maurice Boucher and his second child, a 25-year-old mother, are caught in big crime sweep targeting Montreal Mafia and Hells Angels


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1734534756?accountid=14771

More than a decade after dragging his son into his vast criminal realm, the Quebec biker kingpin Maurice (Mom) Boucher now has gotten his daughter into trouble.

Police say the former Hells Angels boss has been plotting from his jail cell to kill a rival imprisoned mobster. In the process, the 62-year-old Mr. Boucher is alleged to have talked about the plan in coded words while visited by his daughter, Alexandra Mongeau.

Ms. Mongeau, a 25-year-old suburban mother who reportedly gave birth three weeks ago, and her infamous father are now both charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

The scenario, if true, suggests Mr. Boucher hasn't changed his parenting style after 15 years behind bars.

During the trials that followed the 2001 crackdown against Quebec criminal bikers, prosecutor Randall Richmond noted Mr. Boucher had ruined the life of his 27-year-old son, Francis, by making him a biker in his gang, for which the son got a 10-year sentence for conspiracy to commit murder, drug trafficking and gangsterism.

"The most heartless example of all is, of course, that of Mom Boucher, who got his own son involved in this predicament," Mr. Richmond told the court in 2004.

Convicted of ordering the murder of two prison guards, Mr. Boucher is currently serving a life sentence in the high security wing at a penitentiary north of Montreal.

On Thursday, police alleged that the infamous biker had recently plotted to kill a rival, Raynald Desjardins.

The revelation came as police announced a series of arrests targeting the current leadership of the Montreal Mafia and Hells Angels.

Among the 48 arrested were two other sons of prominent mobsters, in another sign of the family ties in Montreal's underworld.

Leonardo Rizzuto, 46, charged with drug trafficking and gangsterism, is a lawyer and son of the late Vito Rizzuto, godfather of the Montreal Mafia.
Stefano Sollecito, 48, facing similar charges, is the son of Rocco Sollecito, a 67-year-old who's identified in court documents as a former confidant of Vito Rizzuto.

The two younger men are leaders of Montreal's Mafia, Sûreté du Québec Chief Inspector Patrick Bélanger told reporters. Police said their arrests had disrupted the interim Mob leadership that emerged following the death of Vito Rizzuto in 2013.

Mr. Desjardins was a former right-hand man of Vito Rizzuto, but had a falling out with the clan. He was arrested in 2011 for the murder of another mobster.

He was targeted by Mr. Boucher both as a drug-trafficking rival and "partly for revenge," SQ Lieutenant Benoît Dubé said.

Montreal's underworld is now dominated by a three-way alliance between the Rizzuto clan, the Hells Angels and street gangs, police said Thursday.

Also arrested was Gregory Woolley, who was identified in past court decisions as a Haitian-born criminal with ties to bikers and street gangs. He acted as a liaison between the three factions of the crime union, police alleged. "He was a cornerstone of the alliance," Lt. Dubé said.

Mr. Woolley was also charged with being part of Mr. Boucher's murder plot.

"Mom Boucher had one contact - that was Alexandra, his daughter - and Alexandra's contact was Gregory Woolley," Lt. Dubé said.

Loris Cavaliere, a long-time lawyer for the Rizzuto family, was among those arrested. He will be charged with drug trafficking and gangsterism. Insp. Bélanger said the alliance used Mr. Cavaliere's law office for meetings, to make it more difficult for police to monitor their activities.

The dues paid by various drug-retailing cells were funnelled through Salvatore Cazzetta, a top Hells Angels leader who was also among those arrested, police said.

Mr. Cazzetta has lengthy ties to criminal biker gangs. According to past court evidence, he was a founder of the Rock Machine, an upstart gang that fought a violent turf war against Mr. Boucher's Hells Angels in the 1990s.

After being extradited to Florida for cocaine trafficking, Mr. Cazzetta returned to Canada and switched sides, joining the Hells Angels.

Mr. Woolley also has a long history with Mr. Boucher. He was a loyal figure in Mr. Boucher's entourage, although he could not become a full-fledged member of the Hells Angels because he is black.
Thursday’s operation was conducted by a joint regional squad of RCMP, provincial and municipal police forces who executed 11 search warrants, seizing 41 firearms, seven kilos of cocaine and $1.2-milllion in cash.
Precious details of kids’ early lives turn fuzzy


My 10-year-old is writing his autobiography, a project for school. I guess it's never too early to start reflecting on your life.

Like any good field researcher, he uses primary sources only. He corners me at the kitchen table just as I'm drinking my afternoon chai and reading the newspaper.

"Mom, what was I like as a baby?" he asks, his pencil and paper poised.

"Ummmm," I say. My mind is blank, a clean whiteboard at the start of the school week. "You liked to play? With toys? There was a blue one? I think it was a dog?"


I better think fast, or he'll discreetly ask dad if he was adopted. No such luck kid, you look exactly like me.

"Wait, it's coming back to me!" I say. "You liked to play with my pots and pans, your favourite was the pressure cooker. And when you were 2, you were obsessed with volcanoes and Dora the Explorer," I say triumphantly.

He is writing furiously, but pauses over Dora. "No need to include that," he says. I nod sagely. There is his rep to consider, after all.

"What else?" he persists. "Was I a good baby? What was I interested in?"

"What about me?" my 8-year-old chimes in. "What was I like?"

"OK, give me a minute to think." I sit in silence, my chai growing cold, the newspaper unread.

Parenting is so all encompassing, the days melt into a giant kaleidoscope of events. It's hard to remember any one stage in a lot of detail. Mostly what I remember are the feelings - intense joy, complete exhaustion, feeling overwhelmed and responsible.

I look at my two sons, their faces so loved and familiar, and I have one of those parental moments of shock. How did I get here so quickly? I used to cradle them in my arms, and now Mustafa is old enough to write his own stories.
They are waiting, eager for details. "Mustafa, you used to take a really long time to eat. You were a happy baby. You had these socks you loved, with lightning bolts on them, you called them your 'Da-NAH-nah-NAH socks.'"

"Ibrahim, you were a great eater and you loved to play with your stuffed animals. You used to call Loblaws 'Blah-blahs' and your pyjamas 'Tajamin.'"

"What else? What else?" they clamour.

I'm scraping the bottom of the barrel here, and starting to feel guilty about my imperfect memory. I throw out details as fast as they come to me. "You liked to sing 'Wheels on the Bus' and you hated swimming. You would only eat food that was hot and homemade. You love Indian food. You love doughnuts." I'm not even sure which kid I'm talking about, but they soak it up.

It's not about the details, I realize. They want to know that they are known. Boys, I want to tell them, raising kids is not like watching a movie on Netflix. You can't zoom through the boring or tough stretches and only watch your favourite parts. There is no pause button - and we're still in the thick of it.

This is why I should have finished their scrapbooks. Every new mom has a 'mat-leave hobby.' Mine was scrapbooking. I faithfully chronicled their first year before losing interest. All subsequent pictures now languish, unsorted, on three SD drives, two laptops, four cellphones and presumably a cloud of some sort.

Today, I see glimpses of their past and flashes of their future. Mustafa will make a joke that is actually funny or Ibrahim will bring in groceries unasked. I see the babies, toddlers and little kids they were when they cry, giggle, complain and stuff their faces with candy. I see the teenagers and adults they will grow into when they help, complain, study and sit comatose in front of a screen.

The days are long, but the years are lightning fast.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have nine years of scrapbooking to catch up on.

Uzma Jalaluddin is a high school teacher in York Region. She writes about parenting and other life adventures.

Credit: Uzma Jalaluddin

Illustration

Caption: From left, Safiyyah Memon, her aunt Uzma Jalaluddin and Jalaluddin's sons, Mustafa and Ibrahim Merchant, flip through old scrapbook albums in Jalaluddin's home in Markham. Melissa Renwick/Toronto Star
10-month-old died from taking morphine

A Winnipeg mother is set to go on trial after her 10-month old daughter ingested a deadly dose of morphine in what is believed to be the first case of its kind in Manitoba.

Police never released details about the tragic incident, which occurred in July 2012. The Free Press recently learned about the case through justice sources and court records.

The 33-year-old woman is charged with criminal negligence causing death and failing to provide the necessities of life. None of the allegations has been proven and she is presumed innocent. Her trial is set to begin Jan. 11 in provincial court.

Paramedics were called and found the infant in obvious distress, according to sources. She was rushed to hospital but pronounced dead. An immediate cause of death was not clear.

A complex investigation followed, including detailed toxicology testing that revealed the girl had morphine in her system. Morphine is a prescribed opiate painkiller that can be administered in a variety of ways.

"The investigation was a protracted one due to the pathology that required a little extra effort," a source told the Free Press.

A key part of the trial is expected to focus on how the baby ingested the morphine. Given there is no murder charge in this case, it's clear justice officials don't believe it was a deliberate act.

Sources say Child and Family Services had extensive contact with the family before and after the death. Several other children in the home were seized from the accused. Court records show there are two ongoing family court files involving the woman.

The Free Press is not publishing the woman's name to avoid identifying her other children in CFS care.

Criminal negligence is a complicated charge. The Crown must prove there was a "marked departure" from the normal standard of care expected from a parent.
Earlier this year, a Winnipeg drug dealer was given a three-year prison sentence for supplying morphine to a woman who overdosed and died. Curtis Haas, 54, was convicted of manslaughter, criminal negligence causing death and two counts of trafficking.

Justice Gerald Chartier of Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench found that while Wendy Henry, 20, willingly took the drugs she was given, it doesn’t excuse Haas’s actions.

Court was told Haas gave Henry 16 pills of street morphine in his Dufferin Avenue apartment in October 2007. Haas's lawyer had argued the man had no way of knowing how many pills Henry took, but Chartier, in finding Haas guilty, determined her death in hospital two days later was his fault. Haas didn't call 911 until the woman was already in "extreme distress."

It was believed to be the first time in Manitoba a person was convicted of causing death by providing drugs to the victim.

www.mikeoncrime.com
Appendix 21 – artciled 21 (codified) Man/Neglect

Boys' killer father calls inquiry 'waste of time'


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1753949573?accountid=14771

The father who murdered his two boys during a 2010 custody dispute was cited for contempt of court Tuesday after he refused to answer questions at a fatality inquiry for the second day in a row.

Jason Bruce Cardinal, 36, was brought into court Tuesday and immediately told the judge that he was done answering questions at the inquiry.

"It just doesn't matter. It's a waste of time."

Provincial court Judge Ray Bodnarek told Cardinal he was legally required to participate and then a few secrets B1 FP cited him for contempt of court.

"This is about one person gaining from a tragedy," Cardinal said Monday after he stopped answering questions in mid-testimony. "I won't be a part of that."

Andrea Lee Badger, the mother of the sons Cardinal killed, has sued Alberta's Child and Family Services for $1.03 million and stated they "caused or contributed to" the boys' deaths when they permitted unsupervised visits with Cardinal.

Cardinal's testimony would have been key in determining if the deaths of Caleb Cardinal, 6, and Gabriel Cardinal, 3, could have been avoided.

Cardinal, worried about losing custody of the boys, killed them both during an unsupervised visit on Dec. 19, 2010. He is currently serving a life sentence for the murders.

Cardinal injected both boys with morphine and strangled them. He then attempted suicide by slashing at his arms with a box cutter.

Cardinal and Badger met in 2001. By 2008, they had two sons and Badger gave primary custody to Cardinal so she could work in northern Alberta.

In February 2010, the boys were taken from Cardinal and placed in Badger's care.

Wendy Dawson, then an assessor with Child and Family Services, said her department obtained an "extended visit" placement with Badger that overruled Cardinal's parenting order.
"I had a great deal of concern about Jason’s mental health," Dawson said. "I was very concerned with the children’s safety."

Cardinal had expressed suicidal thoughts, Dawson said, and his moods swung wildly. Court has heard Cardinal suffered from mental disorders since he was a child, including bipolar disorder.

In August 2010, Cardinal was granted unsupervised visits at his north Edmonton home despite Badger’s objections about his mental state and his physical disciplining of the boys.

The couple’s case was still in court when Cardinal killed the boys.

In a statement of defence against Badger’s lawsuit, the government said children’s services employees did all they could to help the family and the two deaths were unforeseeable.

The inquiry was called because of the family’s involvement with Child and Family Services when they died.

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Credit: Ryan Cormier; Edmonton Journal
Appendix 22 – articulated 22 (codified) Other/Other: this article covered various parenting styles, and thus cannot fit into one category of parenting role. Also, the gender of the parenting was not mentioned.

Childhood obesity linked to parenting: Family dynamics key to child's health, expert says

http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/canadiannews/docview/1733092529/45683DB637FB443CPQ/2?accountid=14771

Genetics, poverty and limited access to healthy foods have long been known to affect a child's risk of obesity.

But a new study suggests parenting style could have an impact too. The nationwide Canadian study suggests a link between parenting style and obesity risk in kids, with certain styles upping the risk. The research, published in Preventive Medicine, is based on a Statistics Canada national survey of more than 37,000 Canadian youth from 1994 to 2008.

The study uses a decades-old framework for parenting styles, which divides them into four main groups:

Authoritarian: Parents who are demanding but not responsive.

Authoritative: Parents who are demanding but responsive to their children.

Permissive: Parents who are responsive but not demanding.

Negligent: Parents who are neither responsive nor demanding.

The results showed that, for the population as a whole, preschool and school-aged kids with "authoritarian" parents were between 35 and 41 per cent more likely to be obese than those with "authoritative" parents.

"Kids are kind of born with this innate ability to self-monitor their eating, though there are always extremes like Halloween," said Lisa Kakinami.

She is the study's lead author and an assistant professor in Concordia's Department of Mathematics and Statistics in collaboration with the PERFORM (that stands for prevention, evaluation, rehabilitation and "form"ation) Centre.

But an "authoritarian" parenting style can override that instinctive self-monitoring, she said.
"If you tell your child to always finish what's on their plate, you're teaching them to override their own signals of feeling full."

Geoff Ball, an associate professor in the University of Alberta's department of pediatrics, stressed that a weakness of the study is its reliance on parental-reporting. He explained parents might not be the best gauge of their children's weight and height as compared to outside, unbiased measurements.

On the flip side, the large, nation-wide sample size does offer a solid look at how Canadian parents are raising their kids, he added.

"One of the take-home messages is the parenting style that's less associated with obesity is one referred to as 'authoritative,'" Ball said.

"Parents are responsive to their children's hunger and their cues, not ignoring them."

That means providing the food and letting kids decide when - and how much - to eat, he said.

"We've all seen that situation where kids can't leave the dinner table until they finish their broccoli, and it's a stalemate. That's not a healthy way for food to be enjoyed."

That doesn't mean parents should bow to their children's whims, of course, since that might involve some less-than-healthy choices. "But encourage them to start with healthy items, so if they get full, they've at least eaten their vegetables," Kakinami said.

Alongside the link between obesity risk and parenting style, Kakinami said a second key finding from the research was a link to the household's poverty level.

Among children living in poverty - as in, those living below the Statistics Canada low-income cut-offs - the risk of being obese was 20 per cent greater compared with the risk for kids not living in poverty, regardless of the parenting style used.

But for kids in higher-income families, certain parenting styles made a clear impact on their obesity risk. "Authoritarian" parenting was associated with a 44 per cent higher risk, while "negligent" parenting was associated with a 26 per cent increase.

The findings come at a time when 31 per cent of Canadian children from ages 5 to 17 - or 1.6 million kids - are overweight or obese, according to a Statistics Canada survey from 2009 to 2011.

Dr. Katherine Morrison, associate professor in the department of pediatrics at McMaster University, said this research is an important piece of the discussion about preventing obesity for both parents and clinicians.
"When we're treating families that have these challenges, it's also important for us to think about how families parent," she said. The self-reporting aspect is another weakness, Morrison said, since parents were gauging their own parenting styles.

While Kakinami acknowledged the study's limitations, including that parenting styles can change over time, she said it presents a "stepping stone" for further research into how parents contribute to their children's obesity risk.

"Family dynamics are important to a child's health," she said.

Credit: Lauren Pelley Toronto Star

Illustration

Caption: Preschool and school-aged kids with demanding but not responsive parents were between 35 and 41 per cent more likely to be obese. Dreamstime
Appendix 23 – articulated 23 (codified) Man/Neglect

Life sentence for dad who starved, drowned daughter

Colin Perkel, The Canadian Press
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http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/life-sentence-for-dad-who-starved-drowned-daughter-1.2769062

TORONTO -- A man who drowned or starved his horrifically abused teenaged daughter to death two decades ago was handed a life sentence Monday, after court heard impact statements from three of the victim's relatives.

Everton Biddersingh, 60, of Toronto, had little to say before Superior Court Justice Al O'Marra handed down the punishment for the "horrible" crime.

"It will make no difference," Biddersingh mumbled to the court.

A jury last month convicted Biddersingh of first-degree murder in the death of his 17-year-old daughter, Melonie Biddersingh. He will not be eligible for parole for 25 years.

In a written impact statement, the victim's mother described the devastation she felt after learning in 2012 that her daughter's charred remains had finally been identified.

"There is nothing -- I mean absolutely nothing -- Melonie would have ever done that could have led to the dreadful outcome of her murder," Opal Austin said in the statement read to court.

"So, I am left wondering why for the rest of my life."

The Crown maintained Biddersingh drowned or starved his daughter after a period of prolonged abuse, or that she died while he confined her in the apartment they shared with her stepmother, Elaine Biddersingh.

The teen, whose burned remains were found stuffed in a suitcase in an isolated industrial area north of Toronto, had come to Canada from Jamaica for a better life. Instead, by the time of her death, she weighed a skeletal 50 pounds and had 21 broken bones in various stages of healing. A piece of a vegetable was found in her vagina.

She had spent countless hours chained to furniture, stuffed in a tiny closet, or locked out on a balcony. Her father, according to one witness, would kick her and force the helpless victim's head into a toilet and then flush.
In another statement read to court, Racquel Ellis said no words could describe the suffering inflicted on her sister.

"I remain in shock and deeply traumatized to learn of the disturbing details of my sister's days on earth," Ellis said in a statement read by Paulette Senior, CEO of YWCA Canada and a family friend.

"It's devastating to believe that the persons my mother entrusted with her children's happiness, safety and life would do such a horrible thing."

Neither Austin nor Ellis, who live in Kingston, Jamaica, were present Monday. Both had been in court for much of the trial.

Austin had sent her daughter and a son to live with her father and stepmother in Toronto, in 1991. The teen, who wanted to be a nurse, is believed to have died in September 1994. It was only in 2011 that Biddersingh's wife told a pastor what had happened, allowing police to finally identify the teen's remains and lay charges in March 2012.

The son, Dwayne Biddersingh, fell from his family's 22-storey west-end balcony a year after arriving in Canada in a death deemed a suicide.

In passing sentence, O'Marra, who also heard a victim-impact statement from another sister, said Biddersingh deserved the maximum allowable punishment, which he had escaped for 20 years.

"Her life with you was an unspeakable horror," O'Marra said.

The teen's stepmother, Elaine Biddersingh, 54, faces her own first-degree murder trial in April.

The eldest of three sons, Pat spent his early years in Winnipeg before his family moved to Red Deer, Alta. Most summers were spent at Sabre Ranch at nearby Pine Lake, where the Lawrence family first homesteaded in 1896. Pat, his brothers and many cousins worked on the ranch under the direction of “the uncles” and hired hands. There were pranks and mischief, too.

In 1960, Pat married Stephanie Hall, to whom he was devoted for more than 55 years. After finishing his law degree at the University of Alberta, they moved to Red Deer, building a life that centred around their three daughters, Gillian, Jennifer and Pamela.

Our dad was an exceptionally engaged father. He helped us with homework, including making an igloo from sugar cubes and icing-sugar paste, and a volcano from shoe boxes and PlayDoh. He performed hip replacements on our Barbie dolls after we overextended their legs. He skied and sailed with us and helped Jennifer to practice her pirouettes. He wrote each of us wise letters when we faced challenging times as young adults.

He kept files documenting our artwork and other accomplishments. In fact, he kept meticulous records about everything, including household repairs, his prolific lily garden, and the daily walks that he and Mom took together.

Over the years, Dad and Mom travelled the world and we did the same as a family. In the summer of 1978, he took five weeks off from his law practice and the family headed to Great Britain. There were Yorkshire terriers everywhere and Pamela relentlessly asked for one. By the end of the summer, we had a Yorkshire terrier, named after Dad’s grandmother’s Yorkshire birthplace. Whixley became his dog. They went everywhere together, including the central Alberta courthouses where Dad presided after he was appointed as a provincial court judge in 1987.

Dad loved being a Family and Youth Court judge. His decisions were sometimes unorthodox. He once sentenced a young offender to do a book report; the youth had to read Catcher in the Rye and report back to Dad in his chambers a few weeks later.
While caseworkers and lawyers did not always agree with Dad's decisions, they knew he had the best interests of children at heart. He often reminded those in his court that "this is the Child Welfare Act, not the Parent Welfare Act."

Dad was fond of beer and concocted his own "Judge’s Brew," a mixture of a local India pale ale and stout (when he and a court caseworker reached for the last case of IPA in the liquor store, Dad ordered the caseworker to take it). Dad also cooked with beer. He made beer pancakes for dinner when Mom was away.

When the shish kabob skewers were forgotten during a May long weekend with family friends, "ragout" was created in a big frying pan over an open fire. This dish became a tradition with beer, or wine, added at Dad's discretion.

Our final family trip was to Basel, Switzerland, so Dad could exercise his end-of-life choice.

His was a good death after a good life.

_Gillian Lawrence is Pat's eldest daughter._

To submit a Lives Lived: lives@globeandmail.com Lives Lived celebrates the everyday, extraordinary, unheralded lives of Canadians who have recently passed. To learn how to share the story of a family member or friend, go online to tgam.ca/livesguide
Appendix 25 – articulated 25 (codified) Man/Neglect

If you're strong, secure, forgiveness is healthy

http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1750693413?accountid=14771

I'll start with my father, though this isn't about him.

For years, he had an undiagnosed personality disorder. He'd put down my mother and I. He tried to break my spirit. I was shy and quiet with few friends.

Even when I moved away to university, he tried to control me.

He was finally diagnosed with a mental disorder while getting medication for his diabetes. He's a different person now.

But my fear is real. The rest of his own family still have nothing to do with him.

I've been recently diagnosed as having a co-dependency personality disorder.

Now, my best friend growing up through scouting and school has reached out to heal our own friendship breakup.

He still doesn't know the whole story as to why I came to hate him.

I have other good friends, a significant other, career success and independence.

But my best friend and I used to do everything together.

When I figured out I was gay, I was fully supported by him though my father tried to disown me. He cried when I moved away for university.

However, he got a girlfriend who wanted him to spend all of his time with her, so he started to forget about me and his other friends.

I always left the door open.

He called a couple of times to hang out, when he had breakups with the girlfriend.

When I was stressed out at university and financially troubled, my father and I weren't on speaking terms, and my grandfather died.

My friend never showed up at the funeral. I wanted nothing more to do with him.
When telling my mother this, my father interrupted, saying that it wasn't much of a loss of friendship since he'd been paying my friend money for years.

He was to spy on me, report anything I did, who I did it with and what I was saying.

I felt violated and destroyed.

I left university and was forced to move back in with my parents.

I hated my former best friend. When we'd run into each other, I'd turn and walk away.

I never told anyone else about it, not even in therapy. But it still bothers me.

It's taken me years to have the right balance in friendships.

In my 30s, I have close friends whom I trust. I live three hours away from my parents and am financially stable with a good job.

I eventually got a college degree that I paid for. I realize now that this friend was my first co-dependent relationship. Can renewing this friendship be healthy for me? What if it's just one more manipulation? Could it be what's stopping me from forgiving my father as well?

Troubled History

You've come too far to allow yourself to slip back toward too much vulnerability. You need to feel strong in order to be forgiving of this friend.

If you discover that he's just broken up again, you may find that he's trying to rebuild co-dependency.

To me, this decision isn't nearly as important as whether you're ready or need to forgive your father. His more severe personality disorder was not entirely his fault and he's changed. Your mother's stayed with him. If forgiveness would help heal the whole family, it's worth considering. You're now secure enough to talk to a therapist specifically about these decisions. Remember, you don't have to drag yourself through the full emotional wallop again ... and if thinking about all this takes you back, you're not ready, so drop it.

Tip of the day

Forgiveness can be healthy, so long as you're secure and strong.

Ellie chats at noon Wednesdays, at thestar.com/elliechat. Email ellie@thestar.ca. Follow @ellieadvice. Credit: Ellie Tesher
Guy Turcotte not eligible for parole for 17 years

Jesse Feith, Montreal Gazette
More from Jesse Feith, Montreal Gazette
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ST-JÉRÔME — After taking nearly 30 minutes to explain his decision, the judge in Guy Turcotte’s murder trial finally delivered his sentence to an intensely silent courtroom Friday morning.

The crimes Turcotte committed were odious and horrible, Quebec Superior Court Justice André Vincent said, and he should be sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 17 years.

“Above all else,” Vincent said, “this is an infinitely sad affair, where a loving and attentive father killed his two children in cold blood.”

Turcotte, 43, was found guilty of second-degree murder in December for stabbing his two young children to death in 2009. The verdict meant an automatic life sentence, but it was up to Vincent to set his parole eligibility somewhere between 10 and 25 years.

A handcuffed Turcotte was asked to stand in the accused’s dock, where he had been sitting with his head down, as he was sentenced. He showed no emotion and barely lifted his eyes. His parents watched from the front row.

The Crown had recommended Turcotte spend 20 years in prison before being eligible for parole, while the defence had argued that it should be less than 15 years, and closer to 10.

On Friday, Vincent called the Crown’s recommendation exaggerated, saying it didn’t correspond with Turcotte’s character — he has no previous criminal record and isn’t a threat to society, he said.

The judge said the same about the defence’s recommendation, saying that it wasn’t proportional to the crimes and didn’t properly reflect Turcotte’s “moral guilt.”

“Two young, innocent humans lost their lives in tragic circumstances because of the acts committed by Guy Turcotte, who decided that after giving them their lives, he could take them back,” Vincent said.
Turcotte’s two children, 5-year-old Olivier and 3-year-old Anne-Sophie, were found stabbed a combined 46 times in their beds in 2009. Turcotte had them for the night at a house he was renting in Piedmont while he and his wife, Isabelle Gaston, went through an ugly separation. Turcotte had recently found out she had been having an affair.

Though Turcotte is the only person who knows exactly what happened that night, Vincent said, evidence presented throughout the trial was enough for the jury to understand other aspects of the crime, including motive. Turcotte couldn't stand the thought of another man taking his place as a father, Vincent said.

Vincent also detailed the nature and gravity of the crimes, important factors he had to consider before deciding the sentence.

“Olivier tried to protect himself by screaming at his own father to stop, and by hiding behind his own arms and hands,” he said. “We can imagine the same for Anne-Sophie, who, when facing the horror, literally ripped her hair from her head.

“They had to see their father, who they loved and who should have protected them, cover them not with hugs and kisses, but instead with countless stabs,” he said, before pausing.

“A more agonizing death is inconceivable.”

Vincent said he considered different aggravating circumstances, including the fact that Turcotte killed the children while they were peacefully sleeping, and that he returned to their rooms to stab them even more while they were either dying or already dead.

He noted how Gaston, who wasn’t present on Friday, had suffered an immeasurable loss and pain because of the acts.

As for Turcotte’s character, also something he had to consider, Vincent said he led a life that could never have let anyone predict what would happen.

Turcotte was born into a good family and received a good education. He lived a pampered life, and had the reputation of a good doctor and a loving father, the judge said.

That reputation, Vincent said, is now lost forever. “It now risks being only that of a child killer,” he said.

The sentence being retroactive, the time Turcotte has already spent detained since being arrested in 2009 could count toward the 17 years. That time was estimated on Friday by Crown prosecutor René Verret as totalling 44 months: 27 in prison and 17 at the Philippe-Pinel Institute.
“We suggested 20 years, and of course the defence’s recommendation was different, but we respect the decision rendered today,” Verret said outside the courtroom, calling the sentence just and well thought out.

“The important thing is to remember that, following the verdicts rendered in December, Guy Turcotte has been sentenced to life in prison.”

The jury came to the verdict after a more than two-month-long trial. Turcotte’s lawyers announced last week that their client intends to appeal the verdict.

In the appeal notice, the lawyers argued that Vincent erred when explaining what the jury should and shouldn’t consider when deliberating on whether or not Turcotte was criminally responsible for the killings.

The defence had argued that Turcotte should be found not criminally responsible because of a mental disorder, the same verdict the jury in Turcotte’s first trial came to in 2011 before the Quebec Court of Appeal overturned it.
Appendix 27 – articled 27 (codified) Woman/Active: (a mother started to learn reading so that she can read to her children and encourages them to do so)

Raise-a-Reader: Reading program encourages early literacy for aboriginal kids

‘My mother never read to me at all, and I didn’t read to my older boys at all either. I didn’t know reading was that important’
By Kim Pemberton, Vancouver Sun September 15, 2015

http://www.vancouversun.com/literacy/raiseareader/raise+reader+reading+program+encourages+early+literacy+aboriginal+kids/11365912/story.html?__lsa=833af792

Carla Mann never read to her three older sons when they were young, but now realizes the benefits of reading daily with her two youngest children.

The 43-year-old, herself an avid reader, reads every night to her son Cedar, 2, and daughter Breeze, 4. She’ll also encourage them to pick up books throughout the day.

She started reading regularly to her children after joining a program, called Books, Bags and Babies, offered by the Downtown Eastside’s YWCA Crabtree Corner. The program, which receives Raise-a-Reader funding, has an aboriginal component and is facilitated by elders in the community.

Mann, who is Nishga’a and lives in Vancouver, has been going since her two youngest children were newborns. In fact, she went into labour with Cedar while attending one of the program’s meetings.

“My mother never read to me at all, and I didn’t read to my older boys at all either. I didn’t know reading was that important. I didn’t know where to get books. I thought you had to pay to get a library card. I was pretty naive when I was young,” she said.

Mann’s three older sons are 23, 17 and 15. Despite not having the benefit of an early childhood literacy program, the eldest graduated from high school and went on to BCIT and the other two are on track to graduate as well, said the proud mother.

Mann never graduated from high school and is now trying to obtain her high school diploma. But she’s having difficulties finding daycare during the day. She said she may have to withdraw now that the adult education classes are no longer offered in the evenings when her husband could have watched their children.

“I’m a big advocate for school. I even went to the adult education rallies” to protest the cut in funding for those programs.

She said she had dropped out after being bullied in school and has had to work at minimum-paying jobs all her life without a high school diploma. The full-time mom said
its also stopped her from being able to go on to attend a post-secondary institution. Her life experience fuelled her passion for encouraging an education for all her children.

“I love reading and my kids love it, too. Once they learn to read they can advance with learning. They’ll know things when they get into kindergarten.”

Mann said her children both enjoy attending the Books, Bags and Babies program that runs twice a year for 10 weeks each session. The children pick a book they get to bring home at the end of every meeting. Mann said her daughter loves books about princesses but she tries to encourage her to try new subjects as well.

“We’ll try and change things up and have her look at books about animals, the ABCs, numbers, colours. To have a variety,” said Mann.

The program attracts at least a dozen parents, mostly First Nations members, who get to experience native culture as well through the program, said Alana Zubot, Crabtree Corner’s aboriginal infant development worker.

“The program encourages early literacy,” she said. “I’ve seen families become more and more excited about reading (after participating).”

She said the last time the program was offered it culminated with a feast and the mothers and their children being honoured by the elders in a blanketing ceremony.

There was also sessions where the elders taught crafts and the children made items like rattles, talking sticks and teepees. This upcoming program will also include a drum-making session.

Zubot said the program is for newborns through children aged 6 and happens in the fall and spring. The next session starts Oct. 7.
Mothers who kill their children still confound society

It’s the kind of case a veteran homicide investigator never forgets: the decomposing body of 15-month-old Domenic Brown, lying on his back on the bedroom floor of a barren inner-city apartment.

Domenic, along with his infant sister Gemini, died when their mother, Rie Fujii, left them to starve while she partied with a boyfriend in Cochrane for 10 days during the spring of 2001.

Police initially charged Fujii with two counts of second-degree murder, but she pleaded guilty instead to manslaughter and received an eight-year sentence.

To retired homicide investigator George Rocks, Fujii took the easy way out: by pleading guilty, she avoided a potential life sentence and cleared the way for deportation back to Japan after serving only a portion of the eight-year term in Canada.

“It stuck in everybody’s craw. We saw the body,” said Rocks, who was a staff sergeant in charge of the homicide unit at the time.

“I still find it offensive, what she did. It’s the babies that come up when I think of it. You remember the kids. You feel for them.”

Crimes against children have always sparked revulsion. But when the perpetrator is the child’s mother, public reaction is even more visceral.

“It violates an archetype, the archetype of the mother bear. That archetype is based on some reality, that most mothers will put themselves in harm’s way for their children,” said Dr. Thomas Dalby, a Calgary forensic psychologist who has assessed at least 20 women who have killed their children.

Mothers who kill their children are not only confounding, they’re rare. A Calgary Herald database of every homicide in the city going back to 1990 shows there have been 12 mothers who killed one or more of their children or were accused of the crime. The 16 child victims in those cases make up roughly three per cent of all homicide victims over the same period.
Appendix 29 – articulated 29 (codified) Man/Neglect

Heroin-addicted father shot mother while kids watched, Brampton court told

Hamilton Spectator

By Pam Douglas

Dec 02, 2015


With his two little boys begging him not to hurt their mother, Jatinder Dhaliwal put a gun to his wife's head as she lay on the floor of their Brampton bedroom, and pulled the trigger, a court has heard.

Then, in one of the most horrific domestic violence homicides this city has ever seen, he warned the young witnesses, aged 8 and 9, that he would kill them if they told police what had happened, according to an agreed statement of facts read in court by Assistant Crown Attorney Alex Cornelius.

Dhaliwal, 44, pleaded guilty Monday to second-degree murder for the 2012 death of his wife Lakhvir Dhaliwal, 37, in their Sled Dog Road home on May 28, 2012. A sentencing hearing will be held Dec. 15.

Court heard Lakhvir Dhaliwal had hidden her drug-addicted husband's heroin from him and he wanted it back, sparking that final, fatal confrontation between them.

She was shot seven times by her husband of 12 years — in the arm, the chest, and one final bullet to her head, according to the agreed statement of facts.

After an attempt to clean up the scene, Jatinder Dhaliwal put the gun in his wife's left hand, collected his passport and $2,000 cash, got into the family car, and drove off, throwing the bullet casings into a nearby sewer as he left.

His 9-year-old son called 911 at 5:20 a.m. and said his mother had been shot. He was told to do CPR, but it was no use. She was already dead.

Any of the three gunshot wounds to her chest and/or the shot to her head would have "rapidly" killed her, according to the pathologist who performed the autopsy, the court heard.

Dhaliwal didn't make it far from the bloody scene. He crashed his car into a pole on nearby Torbaram Road at Peter Robertson Boulevard and was arrested there.
The gun was registered to Lakhvir. It was a Glock, .40 calibre, and was sitting on the
nightstand beside their bed, according to the facts entered into the court record when
Dhaliwal pleaded guilty.

A long-time heroin user, Dhaliwal's drug addiction was the source of arguments
between the pair in the months leading up to the shooting, according to the agreed
statement.

Throughout the weekend of May 26, they argued about his drug use. He had been
"consum ing a large amount of heroin in the course of the weekend and was intoxicated
up until after his arrest," according to the agreed statement.

In that final argument, around 2 a.m. on May 28, Dhaliwal was trying to get his wife to
give him back the heroin she had hidden from him. He later told police his wife picked
up the gun during the physical fight between them, and the couple struggled for the
weapon. He also told police he shot her because she was brandishing a knife, but no
knife was found in the bedroom during a search by police, according to the agreed
statement.

Lakhvir Dhaliwal's adult nephew, Harwinder Boparai, also lived in the house and he
initially tried to stop the fight, but when he saw the gun, he ran out of the house, "fearing
for his safety," and went to get help.

Court heard the couple's 9-year-old son initially witnessed his father fire three shots
toward his mother and his mother fall to the floor, calling out for 911 to be called,
according to the agreed statement. He ran back to his own bedroom and woke up his 8-
year-old brother. They both returned to their parents' bedroom and despite their pleas –
the older boy grabbing onto his father and begging him not to harm her – they
witnessed Dhaliwal kick their mother in the stomach and then shoot her in the head,
saying she was, among other things, a "worry," court heard.

Neighbours said Lakhvir was an attentive and caring mother, and one said she used to
take the children to karate, soccer and swimming, and always sat on the front porch in
the summer watching them play. The neighbourhood held a vigil in her memory soon
after the shooting, denouncing domestic violence and celebrating her life. The two boys
and other relatives also attended.

Brampton Guardian
Debbie Hall grew up with five siblings in a one-room house in Elliot Lake, Ont., equipped with a wood stove, an outhouse and little else.

"We had a very, very poor life," said Hall, now 59.

At 15, she fled abuse in the home. "My father sexually molested me, and he wouldn't stop."

She slept in stairwells and was "adopted by biker vagabonds" in Toronto before hitchhiking west to Vancouver, where she spent a decade flipping burgers and fending off drug and alcohol addiction.

Eventually returning to the GTA, Hall fell into a series of abusive relationships. "I was running from somebody who was trying to kill me. He was after me with a steel pipe," she said of an incident that led her to the Women’s Habitat of Etobicoke several years ago.

The shelter, which offers counselling and programming for women fleeing violence, gave Hall her "second home."

"You feel safe here. No man's going to beat you up," she said. "At least I don't have to spend Christmas alone. I like that."

With weekly lunches and bingo nights, the shelter serves as both therapy and a discussion parlour. "I had such anger issues, such hatred issues. I hated myself. Before, I did every drug I could, every alcohol I could," she said.

Now, Hall acts as a compassionate ear to younger shelter clients and an advocate for housing and child care issues.

"Sometimes they come in here and they're really upset. I like to come up with a few suggestions, but I like to listen, too."

Hall has addressed city council and the executive committee several times this year, including Tuesday, on Toronto’s poverty reduction strategy, aimed at tackling urban inequality.
The city’s final report on the sweeping plan - which could enlist up to $100 million in the anti-poverty fight - is expected to go before council for a vote next month.

United Way - which hosted meetings and trained facilitators - and Women's Habitat, which receives some of its funding, are looking to bring the voice of vulnerable women to policy-makers at city hall.

"They have to do something. These people have a lot of problems, but you need to give them a chance," Hall said.

"Even if I help two, three people, that'll make me feel so good. Because I know how hard it is."

Leila Sarangi, who manages community programs at Women's Habitat, called for integrated programming for jobs, child care and affordable housing.

"These pieces need to be addressed together. For example, job offers often aren’t compatible with the child care available. If your daycare is an hour from where you work, employment is that much more of a barrier," said Sarangi, who sits on the city's poverty reduction advisory committee.

Hall, while not complacent, said she's in a more positive place, thanks to Women's Habitat and United Way: "I'm enjoying my life now."

Credit: Christopher Reynolds Toronto Star

Illustration

Caption: Debbie Hall, a client of the Women's Habitat of Etobicoke. Leila Sarangi, community program manager of Women's Habitat.
Appendix 31 – articled 31 (codified) Woman/Neglect

Mother who attacked daughter with meat cleaver sentenced to three years in prison

Jesse Feith, Montreal Gazette
More from Jesse Feith, Montreal Gazette

Published on: February 23, 2016 | Last Updated: February 23, 2016 8:19 PM EDT


Johra Kaleki and her husband sat alone together in the courtroom on Tuesday to find out how much time she would serve for trying to kill their daughter with a meat cleaver six years ago.

Sitting in the front row, Ebrahim Ebrahimi shuffled nervously, his head downward as he pinched his nose and occasionally wiped his eyes.

To his left, Kaleki sat with her arms crossed and eyes shifting around the room as a judge read an 11-page sentence. An overnight bag of personal items she had prepared was placed on the seat beside them.

“Considering the gravity of the offence,” Quebec Court Judge Yves Paradis said, “and the fact that Mrs. Kaleki poses little or no risk to society, a sentence of three years is appropriate.”

Kaleki, 44, was found guilty of attempted murder last March for attacking her then 19-year-old daughter, Bahar Ebrahimi, in 2010 when she had come home in the early morning after being out all night.

A hundred days will be deducted from Kaleki’s three-year prison sentence for time she’s already spent in custody.

The sentence brought a note of finality to a complicated family matter that’s played out in front of the courts for six years.

From the very beginning, the victim and her father have supported Kaleki. Bahar had testified in November that the incident brought her and her mother closer together, their relationship now stronger than ever.

She had pleaded with Paradis to consider a lesser sentence, saying her mother doesn’t deserve to go to prison.
Paradis said Tuesday that when victims argue for lesser sentences, the court must consider the possibility of them being pressured to do so, especially when the victim is a member of the accused’s family. But it didn’t seem to be the case with Bahar and her mother, he said.

In November, the Crown had recommended a 10-year sentence, while the defence, which had unsuccessfully argued that Kaleki should be found not criminally responsible for the act, had asked for a three-year suspended sentence.

Kaleki was not suffering from any mental illness at the time of the attack, Paradis said on Tuesday. Her state of mind was similar to “frustration, anger and rage.”

“Still,” he said, “it was totally out of character. This rage impaired her judgment.”

In June of 2010, Bahar came home late after a night spent clubbing with friends. Her parents were discussing it with her in the basement when Kaleki asked her husband to leave, telling him she would handle it. He went outside to smoke; she went upstairs to look for a meat cleaver.

Somehow she convinced Bahar to lay face down on the ground with her arms extended like a cross and to close her eyes.

She kissed her and told her that she loved her before striking her “several” times behind the head and neck with the meat cleaver. Bahar’s hands were severely injured from trying to protect herself.

Kaleki also chased her and choked her when she tried to escape, the court heard during the trial. It’s Ebrahimi who intervened and pulled his wife off their daughter. Bahar was hospitalized for 11 days.

Ebrahimi, who’s been married to Kaleki for 27 years, later testified that she’s a loving mother and that their other three children who still live at home need her, all details considered in Tuesday’s sentencing.

Kaleki was given the chance to speak before hearing her fate.

She approached the stand and soberly expressed remorse for what happened.

“In my life, I always wanted to be a good mother to my children,” she said, adding that she didn’t know why she attacked her daughter.

“That person is not me,” she said. “I’m sorry.”

Kaleki has always said in court that she doesn’t remember what happened that night in 2010. She’s also said she doesn’t remember a long police interrogation that followed during which she recalled the attack in detail and expressed remorse.
“Is it that something snapped and you lost control?” a detective had asked her.

“Yes, I did,” she had answered.

After the sentence was read, two security guards asked Kaleki to stand up and step forward. A third guard took her bag and coat. She passed a tissue paper to Ebrahimi, who wiped his eyes with it and hunched over in his chair.

He dropped his head in his hands as his wife was handcuffed and brought away.
Appendix 32 – articled 32 (codified) Other/Active: (the gender of the parent was mentioned equally, so it fits into the other category, while the parenting style was depicted as strict in a nurturing way)

A mom, a dad, a child, a book; A combination rewarding on several levels


Long before she became one of Charlie Sheen's eccentric patients in the television comedy Anger Management, Noureen DeWulf studied international relations and theatre at Boston University. She earned her degree in three years.

Her older sister, Aziza, teaches law at Northeastern University in Boston. Her younger sister, Sara, practises law in San Francisco.

So, let's assume there were lots of books around the house when the girls were growing up near Atlanta, where their father is a neonatologist.

"My parents were kind of strict," DeWulf explains. "They didn't really let me out of house, so I read a lot of books.

"A combination of my dad being a physician and we being from an Indian background, our grades were really important and reading was a big part of our childhood. My dad would read to us Dickens and stuff that was way ahead of us because that's how he grew up in the British-Indian education system. He read us super-advanced books when we were really young."

In a way, DeWulf and her husband, Vancouver Canucks goalie Ryan Miller, are doing the same with their baby boy. Bodhi Miller is six months old and gets read to regularly by Noureen and Ryan.

When The Vancouver Sun photographed the family at their waterfront home on False Creek, Bodhi, all big eyes and intense curiosity, was captivated by a book as he sat for 10 minutes in his dad's lap. Clearly, Raise-a-Reader is a parenting philosophy.

"You open a book in front of him and think: OK, he's too young to know what a book is," Ryan, 35, says. "But you start reading and he sees the pictures and he definitely knows it's time to start listening. He's genuinely interested. It has pictures and it's colourful and it kind of draws you in. That's a good way to start. It's cool to see him reach out and touch the book and feel different textures. He has a caterpillar book that crinkles that he really likes.

"Obviously, when he understands the words more it will be fun to read him stories and kind of see where his mind goes."
The first-time parents have plenty of reading material.

For the baby shower for Bodhi, Noureen, 31, said her sister asked guests to bring children's books in lieu of other gifts.

"I think we got three of Z is for Zamboni," she laughs, referring to the hockey-themed alphabet book by Mark Napier and Melanie Rose. "We got tons of hockey books. Everybody was supposed to bring a book that they loved from their childhood. We got the most awesome books. One book I really like is Hush Little Polar Bear. That's one I like to read to him."

Lately, most of the reading Noureen and Ryan do for themselves is about raising a baby.

"We're trying to be good parents," Ryan explains. "And you do find a lot of resources through other people's experiences."

Miller grew up in East Lansing, Mich., where the family is like hockey royalty at Michigan State University. Ryan's brother, Drew, plays for the Detroit Red Wings and older cousins Kelly, Kip and Kevin Miller all played in the National Hockey League.

But Ryan says there was far more pressure from his parents to do well at school than at the rink. "School was very important to my parents; they both went to college," he says.

"School was the centre of what was happening to us. Hockey was big and became bigger in our lives as we got older, but it always hinged off: 'How are you doing in school?' My mom was pretty on top of that stuff to make sure if we needed to be excused from school for tournaments or things, we were ahead (on school work) and showing teachers we had motivation."

Miller not only got an NHL career from attending Michigan State - the Buffalo Sabres chose him in the fifth round of the 1999 entry draft - he earned a business degree, too.

He completed it by going back to university the first three summers of his hockey career. "My dad would hand me down books like Tom Clancy novels or anything he thought was interesting," Ryan says of childhood.

"But when I was really young, it was the Tolkien series - Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit and all that stuff - that I really liked. It kind of got me into the trajectory of a long, arcing story. "I remember staying up to two or three in the morning, pushing to finish a book because I wanted a cap on the story and find out what happened."

Noureen says she was a "typical girl" and read series such as Nancy Drew, the Baby-Sitters Club and Boxcar Children. She also remembers the Cam Jansen series.
"When I was in seventh grade, after we came back from summer vacation, everyone had a hot-air balloon (on the classroom wall) to represent how many books they read," Noureen says.

"My balloon was in the middle of the ceiling because I'd read so many books.

"But another girl in my class, Noelle, beat me by the end of the year.

"The ability to read can keep you from being lonely. Books are your companion. It's just fundamental to your development to pick up a book and read it, especially now when everyone has such a short attention span.

"We're conditioned to instant gratification, but there's still something really rewarding about starting a book and finishing it.

"It's just one of the things I remember from my childhood that I cherish: getting in bed with the covers pulled up and reading a book.

"I just think it's a special experience."

It already is for Bodhi and his parents.

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RAISE-A-READER

By helping someone on the road to literacy, you might just meet your favourite sports hero or TV celebrity during Raise-a-Reader Day in Metro Vancouver.

If you missed one of the many volunteers collecting funds on the city streets this morning, you can contribute online at raiseareader.com/donate.

Just select 'Vancouver' under the Fund/Designation category.

Credit: Iain MacIntyre; Vancouver Sun

Illustration

Arlen Redekop, PNG / Canucks goalie Ryan Miller and his wife, Noureen DeWulf, read Why I Love Hockey to their six-month-old son, Bodhi. 'He definitely knows it's time to start listening,' Miller says.
Appendix 33 – art 33 (codified) Woman/Active: the mother was helping her children to discover their passion.

The master and his mom: After indulging his (almost) every whim, I faced a challenging question from my teenage son


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1746741658?accountid=14771

"Why didn't you make me a prodigy?" What's that now? I was driving my 17-year-old son, Fox, to yet another interminable water-polo session at the suburban behemoth that is a locus for every budding swimmer, diver and gymnast in a 50-kilometre radius when he petulantly tossed out this gem.

"You can't make a prodigy," I responded. "They are literally freaks of nature."

He looked out the window as we passed the site of his onetime guitar lessons and exhaled, shoving his chin into his palm.

"Yes, you can. If I had started playing violin like some other kids in the school orchestra, when I was 3, I would be a prodigy."

I felt a shot of heat rising up the back of my neck. "At 3, I had you in a well-respected music class, meaning it wasn't in somebody's basement and the name even contained the word 'conservatory.' You could barely bang two coconut shells together."

"Well, it was a crappy school."

I was skeptical of that assessment, since the school recently expanded to a larger building and appeared to be thriving. We had 20 more minutes of driving ahead, so I pondered my next move. As any parent knows, trapping teens in cars is an ideal way to further a conversation without them slamming a door or whipping out a phone to Snapchat with a more telegenic human. A savvy friend of mine recently lectured her teenage son on porn and why sex in real life isn't like that (until he threatened to throw himself out of her Honda if she didn't stop talking).

I didn't want to shut the discussion down, but I was stumped.

I have tried to expose both my son and daughter to a multitude of experiences so they could discover a passion. I didn't expect them to master it, just enjoy it. I began listing for Fox all the activities he's been involved in, beginning at six months old, when we endured mom-and-tot swimming lessons in a pool so blissfully warm I can only assume it was 90-per-cent urine. From there we ventured into gymnastics, followed by taekwondo (I appreciated the discipline of the sensei, but suspected the class was full of
children with undiagnosed rage issues). A stint of hockey followed. It was becoming increasingly clear that Fox wasn't superaggressive. When he had the puck, oh-so-briefly, he would stare at it as if trying to communicate on a metaphysical level until another player deftly flipped it away. Summer meant soccer and tennis. Fox and his best friend spent more time looking for snails in the woods than on the playing field. Baseball was a hit, though: We did three seasons before his interest began to wane.

As I write all this down, I realize I sound completely manic.

But wait - there's more. Following a fascination with Godzilla, both my children asked if they could attend Japanese lessons on Saturdays so they'd be able to watch the movies without subtitles. Done. To this day they can only say "peach" in Japanese.

After a short flirtation with diving (Fox thought the Speedos were embarrassingly tiny), he made an unexpected switch to the other end of the pool, where the water-polo team was training. The joke was on him: Not only are the suits even smaller, you have to wear two during tournaments so there are no wardrobe malfunctions. He loved the game, worked hard and his team won the provincial championships.

So this music thing was burning me. Really, the only whim I hadn't indulged was archery.

When Fox was in middle school, he took up the violin and it sparked an interest in music that has enriched his life. He flourished at strings (he also plays electric guitar and mandolin). In high school, he's performed with both the strings ensemble and the orchestra and been a counsellor at a music camp, so I assume he doesn't stink. When he practises, I don't want to cry and I can identify the riffs unless it's classical. A theme song for Salada tea from the 1970s seems to figure prominently. My side of the family has no musical talent; we were often asked to lipsynch in choir. My husband had a teenage DJ business, but aside from some rudimentary scrubbing abilities there was nothing in our collective past to hint at prodigy material.

It would no more have occurred to me to shove a tiny violin into Fox's three-year-old hands than to let him perform his own dental work.

The thing is, when your kids are prime prodigy age, how are you supposed to know what they're into - besides Froot Loops and Teletubbies? There is enormous pressure on kids today to be not only good, but excellent. He is a bright, interesting kid, isn't that enough?

After running through the list, Fox snorted. "None of those activities are practical."

"Swimming isn't a practical skill?" "Well, I am not as good as I could be if I was forced to do things at a high level."
There it was. I was never a tiger mom, and now I was paying the ultimate price: being mauled by my own surly cub. And then there were those coconuts! I can say with complete confidence, he was not good on those coconuts.

Wendy Jacob lives in Toronto.
Appendix 34 – Article 34 (Codified) Man/Passive: the father had planned to leave his kid in the car, and the police said that this is not a negligent act, so the father was passive toward his child in this story.

Amber Alert baby’s dad won’t be charged for leaving child in running car

Toronto police rule out charges after looking into father's actions


Toronto police say they will not lay charges against a father who left his child alone in a running vehicle, which someone stole minutes later.

Const. Allyson Douglas-Cook said investigators have determined the father had not been negligent in his care of the child, who was found safe hours later.

- Toronto Amber Alert case a reminder that the system works

Vakil Yosufi told reporters Sunday he had planned to leave his child in the vehicle, with keys in the ignition, for just a few minutes.

"I just left the baby in the car and walked away and somebody came and grabbed it," Yosufi said, after police found his child Sunday night. "By the time I tried to get him, it was all gone."

Police questioned Yosufi about why the child was left alone in the first place, saying they needed to corroborate the dad’s story with evidence from the area near Dr. Flea’s flea market, at Albion Road and Highway 27.

Police searching for thief

After investigators issued an Amber Alert, a member of the public later recognized the car with the child inside, and the baby was eventually reunited with the family.

Police are still looking for the car thief, who could face negligence-related charges for leaving the child alone in the car for someone to find. Those are the same type of charges the father could have faced, police said.

"It's not only what you do, it's also steps that you're not taking to prevent something from happening," said Victor Kwong, media relations officer for the Toronto Police Service.
He said police are reviewing surveillance tape from the area and talking to witnesses.

"We're investigating to see what exactly took place in between the time that the car got stolen and a few seconds before that."

When is it OK to leave a child in a car?

Most major police outlets in Canada say there is no specific criminal law that prohibits adults from leaving children alone in cars, but there are applicable clauses under traffic acts and child welfare rules.

The resultant patchwork makes charges related to leaving children alone in cars difficult to track and measure.

In Quebec, there is a rule in the road safety code specifying that a child younger than seven years old cannot be left alone in a vehicle. The fine is $60.

In Edmonton, police have announced several charges against parents for leaving children alone in cars in recent years. Investigators there say it's never OK to leave a child alone in a vehicle. They launched a campaign called "a vehicle is not a babysitter" in 2013, describing the dangers.

In Halifax, a regional police spokeswoman said she knew of only one case in 2015 where a man was charged with criminal negligence and abandoning a child for leaving a child in a vehicle.

RCMP headquarters say they don't know how common such charges are countrywide because they don't gather those specific statistics.

'A decision parents have to make'

In Ontario, Sunday's Amber Alert case echoes a similar problem just three months earlier: police considered charging a mother in December after she left two children in a vehicle with the keys in the ignition and went shopping.

Toronto police say they treat each incident on a case-by-case basis.

"You hear that a baby was stolen in a running car and there might be more to the case," said Kwong.

"As a parent, there's been times that you leave your kid in just to dart in, dart back out.... It's a decision parents have to make and you as a parent have to stand by whatever may take place."

In 2013, a two-year-old boy in Milton, Ont., died after he was left in a car alone outside his home during a heat wave. Around the same time, a toddler in Edmonton died after
she was playing near an unlocked vehicle and got stuck inside. The Canada Safety Council estimates that between four and six children across the country die after they are left alone in vehicles every year.

*With files from The Canadian Press*
Appendix 35 – articulated 35 (codified) Man/Active: the whole article is about how dads get the chance to nurture their children

Father time: Paternity leave is good for the whole family: dads and kids get a chance to bond, moms keep their careers on track and couples split household work more evenly. In countries from Korea to Sweden, government policies are designed to encourage new fathers to take time off. The Canadian government, though, doesn't seem interested


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/canadiannews/docview/1774091690/A29872254F649F4PQ?accountid=14771

It's the everyday moments that have defined Montreal chef Mario Freude's paternity leave: Teaching his three-year-old son, Noah, to cook, while his wife, Alina, breastfeeds their newborn, Liam. Eating lunch on a park bench with Noah. Watching him find letters and numbers on billboards during a downtown walk. "I didn't really get to share that before," he says.

Quebec fathers, in fact, share these moments more than any other dads in Canada. It's the only province that gives fathers five weeks of paid leave for them to use or lose. Freude plans to take up to eight months, though he is already starting to reflect on the future, and whether he is willing to go back to being "this figure that disappears for nine to ten hours, and has a brief moment with the kids before they go to sleep." These first few weeks have already made a difference: "Noah will just randomly come and hug me." His son, he says, has noticed, "I am here now."

Around the world, policymakers have also noticed: It's hard to shrink the gender gap in the workplace when the cost of being a parent, in wages and time, is still more expensive for women than men. Balancing the ledger means sending more dads home to diaper duty. Use-it-or-lose-it daddy leave sends a message that men should be caregivers, and upends the notion that female workers are the only ones who vanish when baby arrives. If both parents take more equal leave when the baby arrives, then one side isn't penalized for her absence from the office, and doesn't miss promotions and pay raises that will put her career permanently on the second-tier track. She's less likely to be acclaimed resident expert of diapers and dishes.

Dads and kids are happier too.

More than half of OECD countries now offer some form of paternity leave. Except for Quebec, Canada is not one of them. Changing this wasn't on the Liberal election platform, so don't expect a just-for-dad surprise in next's week budget. Instead, the Liberals promised to extend parental leave to 18 months, allowing parents to spread out the current one-year benefits at a lower level, and take time away from work in chunks. This won't be in the budget either, however. MaryAnn Mihychuk, the minister of
employment, workforce development and labour, told The Globe and Mail this week that Ottawa still has some consulting to do. A more realistic timeline, she said, is 2017.

Consult away, because while extending parental leave plays well on the campaign trail, what the Liberals are proposing is not great policy. For starters, Ottawa doesn't plan to increase benefits, which in 2016, cover about 55 per cent of a parent's salary, up to $537 a week. That's a stretch for many families already, and means the person (i.e. Mom) with the smaller salary will still become the de facto caregiver. And while the Liberal plan may make it easier, in principle, for mothers to juggle part-time work while still receiving benefits, the downside is that they still need to find daycare. Aside from a nearby grandparent, that's neither easy nor cheap for babies. More likely, the 18 months will be used by higher-income households, which means professional women will spend even more time detached from the workforce.

An equal balance was a chief consideration when it came time for Ashley Morton, a marine electrical engineer, his wife, Kes, a senior research manager in Halifax, to divvy up their parental leave, respecting that both their careers were of equal importance. "You change the first dozen diapers or stop the baby from crying for most of the first six weeks, you are probably going to always be a bit better at it than your partner, and it ends up as 'your job,' " Ashley says. "We didn't want that dynamic to be set up in our relationship."

They decided to take the first two weeks together, alternating night feedings, and making child-raising decisions in tandem. On the first day home from the hospital, Ashley recalls sitting alone with his baby girl on the living-room sofa, afraid to move lest he wake her - Kes went out to get groceries. In the end, his wife took 16 weeks, and he took 10, eight on his own. He did most of the housework, including washing the cloth diapers. He went to story time at the library, public-health parenting sessions and even a couple municipal zoning meetings. "I wandered around and did what I was always going to do," he says, "I just had a kid weighing next to nothing on my chest while I was doing it."

Without that time, he says, "it would have been a steeper uphill climb to get to honest equality." Now, four years later, the housework and caregiving is still balanced between them. He does the laundry; she cooks most nights. He mows the lawn; she shovels the snow. But the real reward is the close bond with his daughter. "I absolutely feel like I got the full-version owner's manual for my kid, not just the executive summary."

Policymakers here have plenty of innovative international examples to study, ones with built-in incentives to encourage fathers to get that "owner's manual" in caregiving. Most of these countries have realized that this means benefits have to be higher.

In Portugal, dads now get 20 days of paid leave, 10 of which are mandatory - 100 per cent of their salary is paid with no limits. In Sweden, in addition to specific weeks set aside for fathers, couples get a benefit bonus if they share their leave. Iceland parses it out: six months to mom, six months to dad and six months to be shared. In 2014,
France earmarked up to half a year of leave for dads alone. In an effort to increase low maternal employment and improve equality at home, Korea and Japan now offer a full year off, the most generous paid paternity leave in the OECD. Less than 5 per cent of fathers, however, actually use it.

That's not true in Canada. Give dads here the time and they will take it, as Quebec's example shows. Between 2005 - the year before the paternity leave was introduced - and 2013, the percentage of fathers in the province claiming leave nearly tripled. It helped that Quebec topped up federal benefits to roughly 70 per cent of a parent's salary.

There's still work to be done, and not only one way: Ashley Morton points out that mothers also need to get better at sharing their time. Quebec's approach hasn't led the province's parents to split their leave; fathers tend to take the five weeks earmarked for them - less time, on average, than the much smaller percentage of leave-taking (and still trail-blazing) fathers in the rest of the country.

But Quebec employers can now expect male employees to spend some official leave at home with their babies in the first year - and research suggests that even a short time can nudge caregiving roles. It's hard to parse out the difference this has made, since Quebec's to-be-envied daycare program also had a huge effect on women's employment, but there is some small-scale evidence that Quebec dads who take the leave do more housework. International research has found a link between paternity leave and improved child development, more sharing of labour in the home. UBC researcher Paul Kershaw, a critic of the Liberal plan, says Iceland has struck the right balance by stretching parental time at home, while forcing dads to do their share. "The data," he says, "shows leave reserved for fathers is good for kids, good for dads, good for spousal relationships and good for gender equality."

It may also help break the glass ceiling. This was the finding of a study released in February, conducted by Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics, which surveyed nearly 22,000 firms in 19 countries, measuring gender diversity and the link to profits. Along the way, the authors discovered the companies with more than 20 per cent female executives and board members tended to exist in countries with paternity leaves, covered by large benefits. (Canada, with only 7 per cent of female board members and 14 per cent of female executives, didn't make the top 10.) The most gender-balanced countries, the authors concluded, actually had "slightly less generous" maternity leave, in both time and compensation. As it happens, the study also found that having more women in decision-making ranks translated to higher profits.

To be fair, Mihychuk concedes the current parental leave proposal "is not a panacea. It is not going to help everybody." As a single mom herself, she says, "I just kept on working because I could not even imagine living on 55 per cent of my salary." But raising benefits isn't on the table. She also questions whether "maternity leave" even needs to be differentiated any more, and acknowledges the mommy penalty paid by
leaving the work force for too long. "It's still a reality that employees will hire men first because they are not going to get pregnant," she says. Ideally, Mihychuk says, parents would get 24 months leave, with some of that earmarked to fathers - or even, grandparents. But this is just talk for now, of the pie-in-the-sky variety. Maybe next mandate, the minister says.

There may come a day when mothers and fathers move more equitably between work and home - when calling it parental leave will actually mean a leave shared by the parents. We aren't there yet. Fathers in Canada want to be at home with their babies. But they need a push from Ottawa. Extra time earmarked for dad, incidentally, is what the NDP promised in their campaign. The Liberals would do well to steal the idea.
A Toronto mother accused of killing her severely disabled daughter was found guilty of first-degree murder in the girl's death on Sunday.

Cindy Ali, 45, was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years.

Ms. Ali had pleaded not guilty in the 2011 death of her 16-year-old child, Cynara, who had cerebral palsy and couldn't walk, talk or feed herself.

Crown prosecutors had argued that after years of being the primary caregiver for the infant-like Cynara, Ms. Ali, smothered her daughter with a pillow and then created a story about a home invasion to cover up her crime.

Ms. Ali's defence lawyers argued, however, that Cynara was cherished by her mother and died either after seizures that might have been triggered by the alleged home invasion, or from a lung infection.

Cynara was pulled off life support in a Toronto hospital in February, 2011, two days after emergency personnel responding to a 911 call about a home invasion found her without vital signs.

Ms. Ali testified in her own defence, saying she was home alone with Cynara one morning when two masked men in black suits rang her door bell and pushed their way into her home demanding a mysterious package, which they never found.

Ms. Ali said one of the men had a gun and made her take him through various rooms in the house in search of the elusive package.

At one point when she broke away from the man with the gun and ran to the living room, Ms. Ali testified she saw the second man with a pillow in his hand, standing by Cynara.

Ms. Ali said the two men then left, announcing they had the wrong residence, and she called 911 after shaking her daughter and finding her unresponsive.

Credit: The Canadian Press
Appendix 37 – articulated 37 (codified) Woman/Active: Katie Hurley is the mother that tried to protect her son from bad comments, and she is giving advices that parents should avoid humiliating comments to kids.

The hidden dangers of ‘shake it off’ parenting


Recently, my son took an unexpected ball to the face during his soccer game. This is frequent in U7 (under 7) soccer, but it hurts just the same. He walked off the field with his head in his hands, fighting back tears that poured from his blue eyes the moment his head found my shoulder. At 6, he needs comfort when something hurts.

“Shake it off! We need you out there!”

The words, from the mouth of a mother I don’t know at all, cut straight through my heart. I tried to catch his gaze, to reassure him, but I was too late. The embarrassment already took hold of him and he averted his eyes to the ground as he picked up his pace to get to me.

I did what I always do. I ignored the comment, wrapped my arms around him and empathized. Soccer balls are hard. It hurts when you take one straight to your eye. It’s OK to cry, feel frustrated or just need a minute to hit reset.

I’ve never been a “shake it off” kind of parent, nor do I engage in public humiliation of little kids. That’s what it is, after all. When a child is hurt and a parent yells, “Shake it off!” in response, what the child hears is, “You’re not tough enough – be stronger.”

How can we expect to raise kind and caring kids when we are quick to dismiss our own children in the heat of the moment?

We tell kids to be kind to others. We want them to show empathy when others struggle. We want them to offer a hand. We want them to grow into caring and responsible citizens. But then we tell them to “shake it off.” We also rely on such gems as “no blood, no tears” or “don’t cry, you’re fine.”

“Shake it off” parenting sends mixed messages to young children. How can we expect to raise kind and caring kids when we are quick to dismiss our own children in the heat of the moment? Since when does the size of a cut or the amount of blood trickling down represent the level of pain and need for comfort?

The results of a lifelong study recently published in the Journal of Positive Psychology found that people who perceived their parents as more caring and less controlling were likely to be happier and more satisfied throughout their lives.
Given this research, it makes sense to tap into positive parenting strategies and teach things like empathy and kindness. That doesn't seem to be the case in the current climate of parenting, though. Kids today hear a different message.

According to data collected in a Making Caring Common survey by Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education, nearly 80 percent of youth report that their parents are more concerned about achievement or happiness than about caring for others. Participants in the survey were also more likely to rate things like hard work above fairness.

Parents might think they offer lessons in kindness and empathy, but what kids hear is work hard and win at all costs.

“Shake it off” parenting seems to be gaining steam as parents try every trick in the book to avoid being labeled the dreaded “helicopter parent.” No one wants to be depicted as the neurotic hovering parent who refuses to let the child fail, so they pull a razor sharp U-turn and throw empathy to the wind, even when their kids need it.

That’s a mistake. The truth is that parenting is a balancing act. Sure, there are times when we need to stand back and watch them struggle. If we don’t, we rob them of the opportunity to grow and learn. But we also need to be there for them when they’re down. Unconditional love and emotional support can’t possibly be conveyed through statements like “shake it off,” and sometimes our children need the comfort and caring of those who love them.

The hidden dangers of “shake it off” parenting can have lasting effects on our children and here’s how:

1. Empathy fades away. When we dismiss the thoughts and feelings of our children, they learn that the thoughts and feelings of others aren’t important. They internalize the message that the end results are more important than the emotions experienced along the way. We show them that we don’t really care, and they turn around and show that lack of warmth to someone else.

While we can’t protect our kids from the hurts of this world, we can give them the tools to cope with the ups and downs that life has to offer and, in doing so, plant the seeds of empathy.

2. It fosters unhealthy competition. Competition is a part of life and kids learn a lot from competitive sports, but “shake it off” parenting reaches beyond the playing field. Part of stepping back and resisting the urge to hover includes allowing our children to fail on their own terms. It’s perfectly normal to experience frustration and sadness in the face of failure. In that case, a child should seek emotional support from a loved one.

“Shake it off” parenting lacks emotional support and forces kids to just keep competing – just keep climbing the ranks. They learn to step over others because they are,
apparently, strong enough to shake it off and move on. Until they're not. Then they fall apart.

3. Humiliation shatters self-confidence. Social media erupts in hot debates when parents use public shaming via Facebook or Instagram to correct behavior, as well it should. But parents use humiliation to shame their children on the field, at the playground, on the way school and in the home often and that goes unchecked. Humiliation hurts and negatively impacts self-confidence whether it’s done out in the world or behind closed doors. It breaks trust and leaves them feeling empty.

It’s time to stop negative parenting strategies. It’s time to build our kids up, give them the space to learn and grow and be kind, compassionate and caring people. They’ll thank us for it one day. That much I know.

*Katie Hurley is a child and adolescent psychotherapist and parenting educator in Los Angeles, and the author of “The Happy Kid Handbook: How to Raise Joyful Children in a Stressful World.” You can find her on Twitter and on her blog, Practical Parenting.*

How young is too young for kids to be home alone?; Knowing your children is key


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When I was six, each weekday, I walked along Winnipeg's busy Portage Avenue to school. At age eight, I sometimes looked after my two younger brothers for a couple of hours while my mom worked with my dad. Despite child abductions and drunk drivers, vicious dogs and hot stoves, I survived.

In September, a B.C. Supreme Court judge upheld a provincial court decision which stated that an eight-year-old boy was too young to be left home alone each weekday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The social worker involved in the case testified that, "Children who are eight years of age do not have the cognitive ability to be left unsupervised." She cited various risks, including accidental poisoning or fires, which could happen "regardless of his level of maturity."

She, and the judge, accepted that at age 10, children could be safely left alone.

The mother argued in the Terrace, B.C., courtroom that no minimum age for leaving a child alone for a short period is prescribed by statute. She also said that children mature at different rates, and before government social workers consider removing the child from the home, her son should be assessed.

While the B.C. Supreme Court ruling hasn't become enshrined in B.C. law, the Criminal Code of Canada states that a child under the age of 10 cannot be unlawfully abandoned, "... so that its life is or is likely to be endangered or its health is or is likely to be permanently injured."

In Manitoba and New Brunswick, childwelfare legislation stipulates that a child under age 12 cannot be left unattended unless some provision is made for supervision. In Ontario, the statutory limit is age 16. Quebec law says that children seven or younger cannot be left unattended in a vehicle.

So, it's all over the map. In February, a Winnipeg woman who left her six-year-old son alone for 90 minutes was found not guilty of child abandonment. The provincial court judge said the mother made a poor, but not criminal, choice. "This was an active, bright young child left in a well-kept home with no evident or immediate danger," said Judge Margaret Wiebe. When police found the boy, the multi-tasker was eating pudding, doing a puzzle and watching TV.
Not so long ago, I would leave my eight-year old mini-mom daughter home alone for a few hours, knowing that she would safely amuse herself and not open the door to strangers. But never would I leave my mini-tornado, eight-year-old son alone in a house with a wood stove, matches and sharp knives. Knowing your children is key.

When most children enter their homes now, there's little doubt that a screen of some sort will be turned on and thus, the digital sitter takes over. It's also a world where fearmongering, paranoia, legal challenges and overzealous bystanders are shrinking boundaries and taking the "id" out of kid. There are also freerange parents who believe in unchaperoned experiences for their offspring, and like the Terrace and Winnipeg moms, suffer the wrath of the no-rangers.

A friend of mine recalled being eight and walking down the street of a Prairie town, toting his shotgun, on his way to the hardware store to buy ammunition. Imagine today's half-cocked reaction.

So setting the right age to be home alone is almost a moving target. There's a presumption that reaching a certain age suddenly bestows the needed abilities for the task at hand. Do all 16-year-olds have the full capabilities to safely drive a vehicle, even after passing a test? Why can't 17-year-olds vote in Canada?

Interesting that dictionaries don't peg an actual age when they define "child," instead referring to below the age of puberty, legal majority or discretion.

Perhaps the Terrace court decision prompts a larger question: How do governments, so ready to remove children from their homes, ensure that parents have access to affordable, quality "child" care?

Shannon Moneo is a B.C. writer.

Credit: Shannon Moneo; Ottawa Citizen
Appendix 39 – articulated 39 (codified) Woman/Active: the mother is speaking how she is happy to take the responsibility of motherhood

Knightley opens up about motherhood; Being a new mom 'puts everything into perspective,' actress says


http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/canadiannews/docview/1728504308/8C3B3C9DA9894CFDPQ/23?accountid=14771

Keira Knightley feels having a child has changed the way she approaches her career - for the better.

That's one of the reasons the actress felt comfortable making her Broadway debut in the title role of Therese Raquin.

"I think motherhood puts everything into perspective, I really do," Knightley said at the play's Broadway opening on Thursday. Knightley and her husband became the parents of a little girl named Edie earlier this year.

So when she returned to work, it was in a play she had passed on doing on numerous occasions.

"I've been offered it a bunch of times and I've always gone, 'Well, this is scary and this is really difficult'," Knightley said.

"I still find it terrifying, but why not give it a go?" Knightley stars in the title role of Emile Zola's melodrama as a detached wife who finds passion in the arms of another man, with disastrous consequences. Knightley said the content was "scary and difficult," at times, and the role "challenging." The actress attributes motherhood as being a catalyst for finding the courage to take on the play.

"I'm very grateful to become a mother while doing something this unbelievably difficult, because honestly the worst that could happen is that you fail," Knightley said.

She added: "You try your best and I've been really lucky that I have had the opportunity to be working and finding interesting things, and working with interesting people while being a mom at the same time." So it's no longer about success of failure for Knightley. "Ultimately, as long as my kid is all right, everything is fine," she said.

The Associated Press Credit: Ottawa Citizen

Illustration

Keira Knightley
Appendix 40 – artikel 40 (codified) Other/Neglect: in this story, both the mother and father abandoned the child.

Pregnant teen got a rough start in life


Before she found YSB (Ottawa's Youth Services Bureau), adults had been letting Sara down ever since she was born.

Her father abandoned her mother when Sara was just a baby. Her mother, just 16 at the time, abandoned her for drugs and alcohol when Sara was six months old. Her grandmother raised her, but she was verbally and physically abusive and a compulsive gambler.

The one adult she could depend on was her grandfather - her father figure until her grandmother kicked him out of the house when Sara was 10. From then on, she basically raised herself.

"I just wanted to be with a mom and a dad like every child wants," Sara said.

But her grandmother never let up, constantly reminding her that her parents were no good and that she would never amount to anything. After a while, the barrage had become the norm and she'd built a kind of resistance to it.

"It became like saying 'hello/good morning'," she said. "It just went in one ear and out the other. But inside, it was always chipping away at me. It always tugged at the sensitive parts, like your heart."

In the face of her steely resolve, the abuse worsened and eventually the "norm" became too much to take. At 15, Sara had had enough. She came to Ottawa and moved in with her mother, who'd been sober for five years.

"It was good for four or five months," said Sara, a soft spoken, insightful young woman despite all that she has endured. This time, it was her mother's boyfriend who seemed bent on making her life miserable with verbal abuse.

"I left my grandma's to have a better life, to finish school and have my family. I didn't think I was coming to put up with the same crap from a different person."

At 16, she moved out and led a transient life, sleeping on couches or sharing apartments with friends. It wasn't good. People were always partying and, while Sara drank and smoked dope, she wasn't into using multiple drugs like opiates or crystal
meth like they were. She lost friends to drugs - one is in a comatose state as the result of an overdose; another died. "It's not a life I ever wanted," Sara said. "There are a lot of negative things you see and experience when drugs are involved."

She dropped out of school and got part-time jobs at Tim Hortons and babysitting. "It was either go to school or have money to feed myself."

Then her life started to change. She got a boyfriend who was good to her and had a steady job. She found out she was pregnant last August. She was 17.

"That was my turning point," she said. "I realized it's not just me anymore. I'm going to have a kid to take care of; I have to finish school."

She came to YSB's emergency shelter for young women, terrified of what she thought she would encounter.

She soon found out her perceptions were mistaken. There were people waiting to help, a clean room of her own in a secure building, regular meals and a warm bed.

They helped her find permanent housing, apply for programs and get back to school. She's taking a Parenting and Pregnancy course, learning how to care and provide for her baby, who is due to arrive in April.

She has only three classes left to complete her high-school diploma. She wants to go to college and take early-childhood education.

"I feel a lot more positive about my future," she said. "I feel a lot better about life."

"It's a good feeling waking up every morning and saying: 'I can do this.' I just want the best for my kid. My baby saved my life."

Credit: Stephen Thorne; Postmedia Works
Appendix 41 – articled 41 (codified) Woman/Active: mother talks about responsible strategies to better raise the children

Raising the perfect child, one marshmallow at a time

If bribery and threats don’t work, there is always negotiation, or call in the experts.
By: Uzma Jalaluddin Special to the Star, Published on Sun Oct 18 2015

The classic experiment for self control is called the Marshmallow Test. Five-year-olds are offered one marshmallow to eat immediately, or two if they can delay eating the first one for 15 minutes. The first marshmallow is left in front of them as a teaser. A child’s ability to resist temptation is supposed to predict all sorts of things: personality traits, relationship success, even job prospects.

At a family party, my sons inadvertently replicate this experiment. Their teenage cousin hands out Hershey’s cookies and cream to the kids, and instructs them to hold the treat in their hands. Whoever can resist the urge to gobble their chocolate the longest, wins.

My 10-year-old son, whose idea of heaven is a bowl of sugar and a spoon, is the last kid standing.

His competitive streak baffles me. The minute something is turned into a game, I lose all interest. I was raised in the “do it, or else” era of parenting. In contrast, my kids are part of the “do it, if you please” age.

Sometimes I think my parents’ generation had an easier time motivating and disciplining their kids. They were used to being obeyed. My kids are used to being cajoled.

Now that school has started up again, it’s time to dust off my top strategies for maximum coercion:

Strategy No. 1: The art of negotiation

Whenever I reach a parenting impasse, I open negotiations. This makes my kids feel more autonomous and part of the decision-making process. I always offer two options in every situation, for instance:

“Mom, can I play outside for an hour?”

“Half an hour and then homework.”

“But mom …”
“Half an hour, or nothing. The choice is yours.”

Through such skillful negotiation, they generally see things my way.

**Strategy No. 2: Find an expert to blame**

Even the best negotiator can run into trouble sometimes. When this happens, I turn to the experts. Last year, I decided to teach my kids financial literacy. Gordon Pape’s excellent book *Money Savvy Kids* suggested a regular allowance, so I began dispensing $5 every week.

After six months, I was really tired of buying Dollarama bubble gum every Friday to make change for a $20. Also, instead of becoming financially literate, my kids started to hoard their Lauriers, no matter how much I lectured them on free market theory.

**Strategy No. 3: Bribery**

I launched Operation: Bribe-a-lot in July. When I brought home the usual assortment of literacy, grammar and math exercise books to limit summer brain drain, I was ready for their complaints. I greased their palms with one Minecraft Minute for every 10 minutes of work.

This worked a treat … for about three weeks. Then they launched a full-scale rebellion and staged a coup for the rest of August.

**Strategy No. 4: Lead by example**

When school started, I decided to try an innovative way to encourage reading: I banned all screens on weekdays. No TV, tablets, or YouTube.

The lack of screens has not resulted in more library visits. However, it has had another surprising effect.

My kids talk to me a lot more now. I mean a lot more.

They follow me around the house, telling me about their day. At dinner they fight over who gets to tell their story first. It’s gotten so that I can’t even read the newspaper.

“Wouldn’t you rather be reading a book than talking to your mother?” I plead. “How about that mystery novel I bought you?”

They just ignore me, and continue describing playground adventures, the funny thing their friend said, and what they learned in school. I’m not sure how much more of this I can take.
Every generation thinks they know the best way to raise kids. My kids are being raised to (hopefully) be confident communicators, empathetic listeners, and global citizens. But sometimes, I wish modern parenting was a bit less *The Art of War* and a bit more old school. I think my next motivational strategy will be 1970s folk wisdom:

**Strategy No. 5: Let it be.**
My parenting style is a haphazard mixture of blind instinct and willful redress. I mostly just do what my parents did, except when I go out of my way not to repeat what I perceive as their mistakes. Signing my three-year-old son James up for Suzuki piano lessons was a mission born of the latter impulse rather than the former.

My mother never took us to piano lessons because she couldn’t be bothered to nag us to practise. Now that I’m a mother, the body of scientific evidence supporting the benefits of nagging your kids to practice is so vast, it’s overwhelming. Study after study by respected international neuroscientists show that small children who creak away on their mini-violins daily reap astonishing benefits.

The most recent study – published this month by researchers at the University of Vermont – analyzed the brain scans of 232 healthy young music students. They found that the more the child practised, the higher his or her levels of “cortical organization in attention span, anxiety management and emotional control.” Which explains everything you need to know about my cortical organization skills.

Becoming that nagging mother can be difficult. I’ve tried everything, including cajoling, pretending it’s a game, bribing him with Jelly Bellies, but James’s resistance to the ritual of daily practice seems to be almost innate. “Piano is bum bum!” he declared the other day as I tried to persuade him to sit still and play the first three notes of Hot Cross Buns with his right hand, to no avail.

“So you practise with him every day?” asked Ivana, his pretty, cortically organized Serbian-born teacher with a skeptical arch of her finely plucked brow.

“Maybe not every day,” I said. “But most days. Or at least some days.” In truth, we practised on the days we were not late for nursery school, which lately had meant zero days. But I wasn’t prepared to tell Ivana that. I was paying her too much.
“He needs to practise every day,” she said firmly. “And you need to practise with him. Otherwise there is simply no point.”

“Of course,” I agreed, thinking of the information I’d gleaned from the website of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, which has an early childhood music program designed at an in-house research institute led by a world-renowned neuroscientist.

In recent years, researchers there have been able to find out all kinds of new things about the brain through advances in techniques such as functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) and electroencephalography (EEG), which allow scientists to see how our brains react to stimuli, i.e., what makes them go zzzzz or light up like a switchboard. Aside from longer attention spans and the rest of it, they’ve also discovered that musical study can actually stave off dementia and improve hearing loss.

It all happens through a process called neuroplasticity, which basically means if the brain were a set of muscles, playing an instrument would be the equivalent of the Tracy Anderson Method. This made intuitive sense to me, because trying to persuade a recalcitrant three-year-old to practise Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star each day felt very similar to that Tracy Anderson exercise where you jog on the spot and make teeny, tiny circles with your arms extended.

At first you think, “This is cool.” But after five minutes, you’re, like, “KILL ME NOW.” Stick with it, however, and your child’s brain will have the supple tone of Gwyneth Paltrow’s fortysomething butt.

One Conservatory infographic, entitled “Benefits of Musical Education,” showed two cartoon brains, one grey and one bright yellow.

The yellow “musical brain” belonging to a stick man playing guitar had a list of benefits beside it, including “more grey matter, improved brain structure and function, better memory and attention, higher IQ.”

The grey brain belonging to the stick man with no guitar had nothing written beside it. That, I realized with shame, was my brain. But it didn’t have to be my son’s.

And so, armed with my compelling new research, I did something I’ve rarely done in my life: I formed a new morning routine and stuck to it. For almost a month now, I’ve made James sit down at the piano after breakfast. After a while, he stopped fighting it. He resists as a matter of principle, but ultimately, he knows it is futile.

At his lesson last week, Ivana and I were amazed as he played the first three notes of Hot Cross Buns unprompted. We praised his efforts as if he’d just surprised us with a Chopin nocturne. Brimming with maternal pride, I thought of his improved neuroplasticity and magnificently developing cortex. “Are you proud of yourself, my darling?” I asked. He asked for a jellybean, which I produced from my pocket. “Bum bum,” he said and popped it in his mouth.
Appendix 43 – articulated 43 (codified) Man/Neglect

Ministry defends social workers in high-profile child custody case

Court document says employees acted ‘in good faith’
By Lori Culbert, Vancouver Sun January 13, 2016


A Supreme Court judge made mistakes when he ruled a father abused his children and that social workers wrongly dismissed the mother as mentally unstable, the provincial government says in appeal court documents filed in a notorious child custody case.

Despite the judge’s 2015 ruling that harshly criticized the social workers, the new ministry court document says its employees relied on the advice of experts and were just doing their jobs when they kept the children with their father and interfered with a police investigation into abuse allegations against him.

“(The trial judge) found that social workers acted negligently and in bad faith in removing the children from (the mother’s) care ... and supporting (the father)’s custody application ... In reaching these conclusions, the trial judge ignored relevant evidence and drew inferences that did not rationally emerge from the evidence,” says the document outlining the province’s reasons for appealing a B.C. Supreme Court ruling in the case known as J.P. (the mother’s initials) vs. the Ministry for Children and Family Development.

Also this week, The Sun has learned that the main social worker in the J.P. case — who was the most disparaged by the judge — is now leading meetings with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies about a new centralized screening system used by the ministry.

Bill Yoachim, executive director of Kwumut Lelum child and family services in Nanaimo, said in a brief interview he is concerned social worker William Strickland is heading the ministry meetings about the system, which is supposed to improve services to clients and reduce employee workload.

In response to questions from The Sun, a ministry spokesperson would not comment specifically about Strickland’s job, but said generally that the government has to follow due process before determining whether disciplinary action is ever warranted against an employee. It added that pending the appeal in court and the completion of an external report into the social workers’ handling of the case, “appropriate human resources decisions have been made to protect the interests of both children and our staff.”

When asked Wednesday to defend her ministry’s decision to appeal this case, children’s minister Stephanie Cadieux would only say that government is seeking clarity from the appeal court on child protection practice.
But J.P.’s lawyer, Jack Hittrich, alleged the government’s document contains multiple factual errors, ignores the sexual assault findings by the trial judge, and causes “tremendous hardship” to his client, who is portrayed as mentally unfit throughout the 90 pages.

“The province’s attitude and intransigence is well exemplified,” said Hittrich, who has yet to file his response.

In his decision last year, Justice Paul Walker found Strickland violated policy by signing a letter that cleared the father of abuse; that he tried to dissuade the director of child welfare and the Vancouver police from investigating the mother’s allegations that the father had sexually abused their four children; he told his superiors that the mother had such significant mental illness that she was at risk of harming her kids; and he was partly responsible for the ministry sending a report to court that was full of errors.

Strickland “failed to act in accordance with the standard of care as (a) reasonable social worker,” Walker wrote.

But the factum filed in court by the province this week defends Strickland and the other employees, saying the judge erred when he found they acted “with reckless disregard for the welfare of four young children,” arguing instead they acted “diligently and in good faith” to navigate the complicated child custody case.

“The trial judge erred in fact and law in finding that Mr. Strickland committed the tort of misfeasance in public office,” it says.

The province paints an unstable portrait of the mother, accusing her of fictitiously escalating the sexual abuse allegations against the father to the point social workers were concerned about her mental health; compromising her children’s “emotional safety” while repeatedly asking them about the sexual abuse; and pepper-spraying her brother, sister-in-law and ex-husband while trying to get into a house to see her children, leaving the kids “emotionally distraught and crying” and forcing her brother and his family to flee their home for 10 days.

“Social workers did not ‘prefer the custodial interests of (the father)’ at the expense of the infant plaintiffs; they preferred that the children reside with a parent who could provide safe care rather than have the children remain in foster care indefinitely,” the government document says.

Hittrich was incensed by this line, alleging it completely ignores Walker’s findings of abuse by the father.

The father and Strickland are both expected to file responses to the court document in February.
Appendix 44 – articled 44 (codified) Woman/Neglect

Calgary woman diagnosed with cancer killed adult daughter with Down syndrome

By: The Canadian Press
Posted: 12/31/2015 5:26 PM


CALGARY - A Calgary woman who gave a fatal dose of drugs to her 19-year-old daughter with Down syndrome can't be charged with a crime because she has since died.

Police say Jessica Hagan was killed when she was given an intentional overdose by an older woman in the family's home in September.

They say that woman was also found in medical distress and taken to hospital.

Christine Hagan, who was 51, died on Nov. 21 of pancreatic cancer.

Daniel Hagan wrote on his Tumblr social media account a week later about the deaths.

He says his mother felt that she was the only one who could take care of his sister.

"So she took her life and attempted to take her own," he wrote on Nov. 30.

"She then spent her final days in a hospital bed with security outside her room until she became too weak and suffered from what I would assume is complete organ failure due to not eating or drinking the entire time."

The body builder and personal trainer said he wanted to publicly write about what happened so he could move on with his life.

"Losing my sister, my biggest fan, supporter, and greatest inspiration is a loss I know I will never truly recover from," he wrote in another post.

He did not respond to a request for comment.

Brian van Vliet said his sister, Christine Hagan, was diagnosed in May with stage 4 cancer and was extremely sick.

"She was a wonderful person, very happy, family-oriented, very lively."
He wouldn't say why he believes she killed her daughter. He said Christine Hagan had a husband at home and their son had also lived with them up until a few months before the killing.

"You just have a normal family and then this series of tragic events takes place and it's just surreal," said van Vliet.

He said Jessica was home-schooled and described her as a loving child.

"Jessica was sunshine. She always brightened up the room," he said. "Everybody around her was always inspired by her."

— By Chris Purdy
Appendix 45 – articed 45 (codified) Woman/Active

'She carried our family': Whitehorn homicide victim was a mother of three

Erika Stark, Calgary Herald
More from Erika Stark, Calgary Herald

Published on: November 5, 2015 | Last Updated: November 5, 2015 7:13 PM MDT

http://calgaryherald.com/news/crime/she-carried-our-family-whitehorn-homicide-victim-was-a-mother-of-three

The 26-year-old woman found dead Tuesday in the basement of a Whitehorn home is being remembered as a strong, funny and beautiful mother of three.

Janel Squirrel was killed in what police say appears to be a domestic-related homicide.

She had just celebrated the fourth birthday of her youngest son last week, Squirrel’s cousin Lyndsey ThreeSuns told the Herald.

“Her life was the kids,” ThreeSuns said. “I’ve never met anyone who was so devoted to her kids as she was.”

Squirrel had two other children aged eight and five.

“She was the best,” ThreeSuns said. “She was my heart and soul and everything.”

The pair were both born and raised in Calgary. After Squirrel graduated, ThreeSuns helped her get a job at the same store she used to work at.

“She was the strongest person I know,” ThreeSuns said. “She graduated. She was a hard worker.”

Police and EMS were called to a home in the 0-100 block of Whitmire Bay N.E. at about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday for reports that someone inside was dead.

Responders found the body of a woman in her late 20s in the basement of the home, and considered her death suspicious.

Leo Harry Pantherbone, 45, of Calgary, is charged with manslaughter in connection to her death. Police say Pantherbone was Squirrel’s boyfriend, but her cousin says the pair were roommates as Squirrel was on a break from her long-term partner and father of her kids.

Police said there was no reported history of domestic violence between Pantherbone and Squirrel.
She said she will remember her cousin as a “sister” who never failed to make her feel better on a bad day.

“Her humour was my humour,” ThreeSuns said. She was the funniest person around.”

“She carried our family.”
Appendix 46 – articled 46 (codified) Woman/Active: Mother who lost her children describes how she is willing to do anything to find them back

'I don't know if they're dead or alive:' Mom travels to Middle East to search for her missing kids

Annalise Klingbeil, Calgary Herald
More from Annalise Klingbeil, Calgary Herald
Published on: October 14, 2015 | Last Updated: October 14, 2015 5:44 AM MDT

A Canadian mother whose four children have been missing for nearly two months has returned from northern Iraq where she unsuccessfully searched for her young kids after confirming they flew into the volatile region on Aug. 15.

Former Calgarian Alison Azer’s children — girls Sharvahn, 11, and Rojevahn, 9, and boys Dersim, 7, and three-year-old Meitan — were allegedly abducted in August by her ex-husband, Dr. Saren Azer.

“It's a nightmare,” a distraught Alison Azer, who resides in B.C. but lived mainly in Calgary from 2004 to 2012, said on Monday.

“I woke up this morning and I just said I don’t know how much longer I can do this. I feel in such despair.”

Policing agency INTERPOL lists the four children as missing on its website and a Canada-wide warrant for the children’s Kurdish Canadian father, a well-known doctor who also goes by Salahaddin Mahmudi-Azer, was issued on Aug. 24.

The Azer children were legally allowed to go on a trip to France and Germany with their father in early August but alarm bells were raised when contact with the group ceased.

The children were scheduled to return home to B.C.’s Comox Valley on Aug. 22 and begin a new school year — the girls were already talking about what they would wear on their first days of Grade 6 and Grade 4, and the boys were set to enter Grade 2 and preschool.

Instead, a policeman came to Azer’s door at 4:30 a.m. on Aug. 21 and told her RCMP believed her former husband had abducted their children.

A court order requiring that the children be returned immediately to their mother was issued that day, and three days later RCMP issued an arrest warrant for the doctor, in relation to charges of Abduction in Contravention of a Custody Order.
The weeks since then have been a blur for Azer as the self-described soccer mom searches in vain for her children, who she last saw on Aug. 4 and last spoke to during a frantic telephone call when they were in Germany on Aug. 13.

“I feel so alone without my children. They’re my entire life,” she said.

Rather than celebrating her birthday at the end of September surrounded by her four children, Azer said her daughters’ elementary-aged friends stopped by her house, sang to her and brought her flowers, cards and drawings.

Over the last two months, the devastated mother has travelled to Washington, D.C., Ottawa, and the Middle East for meetings with officials and she’s worked to bring the alleged international abduction of her four children to the attention of elected officials in Canada.

“I don’t know if they’re dead or alive. If they’re alive, we’ve got to bring them to safety,” Azer said.

Azer boarded a plane for Erbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, last month to search for her children after confirming her kids had been taken into northern Iraq, the same region where ongoing conflicts with Islamic State fighters have forced thousands of people to flee.

While meeting with Bayan Rahman, the Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the United States, in mid-September in Washington, D.C., Azer was informed that airport records showed her children landed at the Sulaymaniyah airport in northern Iraq on Aug. 15.

“Once I had confirmation from Washington that the children had, as I terribly feared they had, been taken into northern Iraq, I set out to go there myself,” said Azer, who returned from a week-long trip to the Middle East late last month.

While overseas, Azer met with government officials in Iraqi Kurdistan, who assured her they would do everything they could to locate her missing children but offered her few details.

“I’ve heard nothing directly of the status of their investigation except that there are complicating issues on the ground, which is as vague as it is frustrating and as frustrating as it is terrifying,” she said.

“These are four young children who speak only English, who are so unfamiliar with wherever they’ve been taken in that part of the world.”

Closer to home, Canadian officials have said investigators are working hard to locate the children.
In an e-mail, RCMP spokesman Cpl. Darren Lagan said Tuesday the investigation into the missing Azer kids is ongoing and because it’s an active investigation, additional details can’t be provided.

“We are actively working on this case, both locally in the Comox Valley, and through our international liaison work at our National Headquarters in Ottawa,” Lagan stated.

In an e-mailed statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada said the Government of Canada is “aware of the abduction of the four Canadian children” and Canadian consular officials are working closely with authorities in Canada and abroad.

“Government of Canada senior officials are in regular contact with the children’s mother and remain deeply concerned for the safety and well-being of the children,” the statement said.

As she works around the clock to find her missing children and raise awareness about their alleged abduction, Azer said she doesn’t know what more she can do.

“I don’t know what it will take. I don’t know if it takes me going back (to northern Iraq) ... to walk the streets of Sulaymaniyah with their pictures begging people to let their mom know where her children are,” an emotional Azer said.

“I’m desperate. I will do anything to find my children.”

Azer and her former husband separated in December 2012 and Azer said the couple reached a parenting arrangement in April 2014 that saw the children spend eight days with their mom and six with their father in a two-week period.

The missing children’s father has spoken publicly about volunteering medical care to refugees in the Middle East and he appeared in March in a promotional video with Stephen Harper, speaking about the importance of fighting ISIL.

“The atrocities that are unfolding in that part of the world are beyond anybody’s imagination. The Kurdish community of Canada whole heartedly supports the presence of the Canadian Forces in Iraq,” Saren Azer said in the video.

Azer said her former husband has family in the Middle East and she believes someone, somewhere, knows where her children are.

“There are people out there who know, and I just beg of them, just let me know what you need, let me know what it would take … I will sell everything I have, just let me know what I need to do,” she said.
“(Who) takes four Canadian children away from safety, health care, education, community, friends, family and brings them into an area of active conflict? These children must be found and they must be returned to Canada.”

Anyone with information about the missing Azer children is urged to visit
Appendix 47 – articulated 47 (codified) Other/Other. This article is about how parent should behave toward their male-children when the concept of masculinity is changing. The parenting style is not mentioned nor the gender of the parent.

Man-boys, Charlie Sheen-like role models and boys’ need for movement and space

Michael Reist, the Caledon East-based author of Raising Emotionally Healthy Boys, says the number one problem affecting boys today is emotional repression. By: Katrina Clarke Staff Reporter, Published on Thu Feb 18 2016


Navigating parenthood at a time when masculinity is being redefined can be a mystifying experience for parents of boys. In author Michael Reist’s new book, Raising Emotionally Healthy Boys, the Caledon East educator seeks to help parents and teachers understand boys, accommodate boys’ needs and encourage them to express their feelings.

What do parents need to avoid doing?

My central thesis is that the number one problem affecting males today is emotional repression. And the question is when does this repression begin? When boys enter school the first thing they experience is a shutdown of their boy energy, their need for movement and space. The whole world tells them that there’s something wrong with them. By Grade 3 they realize this isn’t working for me, I’m not welcome here. My energy is a problem. My main message, really, is to teachers I suppose when it comes to entering school: We need to do better at accommodating boy energy in school and modifying the environment of school to be more boy-friendly.

You talk about us, as a society, coming to the end of thousands of years of patriarchy. What do you mean by that?

Well, the biggest revolution that we have experienced in my lifetime is feminism and feminism has totally changed the world. This history of western civilization is basically the history of patriarchy where men ruled. Since the 1960s, that has completely changed and the whole dynamic of society, the whole power structure of society, has changed. This is a fantastic thing. But women have had incredible role models in feminism.

On the male side, there’s been absolutely nothing equivalent to that. Young boys and men are going to have to retool to fit themselves into this new economy which is about language, which is about connection, which is about relationships. To be a man is no longer to be silent and strong and the bread winner. That world has passed away.
How should we help retool boys for the future?

It all comes back to modelling. Boys need men who are comfortable with their emotions. We’ve got to get away from the idea of the stupid, irresponsible male — you get the Charlie Sheen (character on Two and a Half Men) . . . who’s only interested in sex and that becomes the ha-ha-ha image of masculinity.

Are you suggesting that parents should all be signing their kids up for art lessons?

It sounds frivolous. But signing girls up for hockey, that doesn’t sound stupid. We really have a problem with boys with the arts, with the so-called soft-skills. Creative writing, discussion groups — anything that involves expression of the self — the arts includes drama, dance, singing, all of those things (are positive).

Does one parent over the other typically have more of an impact on boys’ emotional health? Mom versus dad?

Mother is still generally the primary caregiver in the early years. Fathers have to increase their role. At puberty the boy needs a model of what it is he’s going to become. One of the reasons we have these man boys — playing video games while the wife runs the house — is because of the lack of initiation into positive male manhood. It’s an essential element of emotional health for males to have male role models showing them what positive manhood is.

When you say, “Men are as much the victims of patriarchy as women are,” what do you mean?

Men are crushed by the rat race of patriarchy. Their lives are so damaged by the competitive patriarchal world of one-upmanship, the Donald Trump world of, “Take care of yourself, forget about the rest.”

It doesn’t serve women, nor does it serve men. It serves the bullies. Let’s change the whole system. Don’t just come in here and join the old boys club — let’s change the club.
The disintegration of the parent-child bond

LEONARD SAX

Special to The Globe and Mail Published Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016 3:26PM EST. Last updated Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016 3:29PM EST


Fragility has become a characteristic of children and teenagers to an extent unknown 25 years ago. That's what I'm seeing in the office today – and what I did not see in the office years ago. But besides my observations and experience as a physician over the past quarter-century, several lines of evidence support my claim. The first and most obvious evidence is the extraordinary rise in the proportion of young people diagnosed and treated today for anxiety and depression. But that line of evidence doesn't pertain in all cases. In some cases, something inside seems to be missing: some inner strength that we took for granted in young people a few decades back.

One cause of the fragility is a weak parent-child relationship. Many teens would be the first to tell you that they love their parents. But they are not seriously concerned with what their parents think. Or more precisely, some are more concerned about what their peers think than what their parents think. Others are more concerned about their inflated self-concept than about what their parents think. Kids need to value their parents’ opinion as their first scale of value, at least throughout childhood and adolescence.

If parents don't come first, then kids become fragile. Here's why. A good parent-child relationship is robust and unconditional. My daughter might shout at me, “I hate you!” But she would know that her outburst is not going to change our relationship. My wife and I might choose to suspend some of her privileges for a week if she were to have such an outburst, but she would know that we both still love her. That won’t change, and she knows it.

Peer relations, by contrast, are fragile by nature. Emily and Melissa may be best friends, but both of them know that one wrong word might fracture the relationship beyond repair. That’s one reason why Emily is so frantic about checking her text messages every five minutes. If Melissa sends a text and Emily does not promptly respond, Emily is afraid that Melissa may misinterpret her silence as indicating a lack of enthusiasm. In peer relations, everything is conditional and contingent.
Young people don’t want to look incompetent in the eyes of their peers, not for a week, not even for a single day. So many will not risk a humbling experience.

Children and teenagers need unconditional love and acceptance today no less than they did 30 or 50 years ago. But they cannot get unconditional love and acceptance from their peers or from a report card. That’s one reason why there has been an explosion in the prevalence of anxiety and depression.

Many parents accept this situation as an inevitable consequence of 21st-century life. But they are mistaken. This phenomenon – of kids valuing their relationships with same-age peers, or their sports, or their academics, or their after-school activities, above their relationships with parents – is far more prevalent in North America than elsewhere. Most kids in Ecuador, Argentina and Scotland still look forward to spending free time with parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. As one Scotsman told me, “We don’t even think much about ‘generations.’ We just all enjoy doing things together.”

American novelist Reif Larsen recently moved with his family to Scotland. In contemporary Scottish society, Larsen observes, “family always comes first.” By comparison, he is struck by the failure of contemporary American culture “to acknowledge that children actually exist.” This difference is manifest not only in how kids and adults spend their free time, but also in:

an infrastructural commitment to children in public places. At the Edinburgh airport, you can find three large soft-play areas in the terminals, ample high chairs and dedicated lines for families. You can preorder baby milk, which will be delivered to you at your departure gate. There’s even an entire cushy room devoted solely to nursing mothers.… Compare this with our experience in the United States. In the Newark airport, there is no such room. After much searching, we discovered there was approximately one high chair for all of Terminal C. We had to drag it across the airport like a family of transient Bedouins.

All of us, as parents, need to establish the primacy of the parent-child relationship over peer-to-peer relationships, over academics and over other activities.

Canadian psychologist Gordon Neufeld has observed the disintegration of the parent-child bond over the past 20 years. His main idea is that many of the problems we see with North American kids today – the defiance, the disrespect, the disconnection from the real world – can be traced to the lack of a strong attachment between parents and their kids. Or more precisely, to the fact that kids now form their primary attachment with same-age peers rather than with parents. As Neufeld writes, “The waning of adult authority is directly related to the weakening of attachments with adults and their displacement by peer attachments.”

Consider an acorn. Its strong shell prevents it from growing until the time is right. If you break open the shell too early, you don’t stimulate the growth of a new tree. You just have a dead acorn. As with the acorn, the key to healthy child development is to do the
right thing at the right time. Neufeld makes a strong case that the wrong attachment style in childhood and adolescence results in the wrong attachment style in early adulthood. Throughout childhood and adolescence, the primary attachment of a child should be to the parent. If a child has a strong primary attachment to a parent from infancy through adolescence, then when the child becomes an adult, that bond will break naturally, as an acorn breaks open naturally at the right time so that a new tree can grow. Such a child, once she becomes an adult, is ready to head out confidently into the world as an independent young adult. But increasingly, Neufeld and others have found, young people across North America just are not ready to step into the adult world. The same girl who refused to talk with her mom at 13 years of age is now texting her mom five times a day at age 22, asking for basic guidance about adolescent concerns. The acorn, having broken open too early, does not have the strength to become a tree.

Parents have to regain the central place in the lives of their children, displacing same-age peers. Same-age friends are great for your child. But your child’s first allegiance must be to you, not to her best friend. The contemporary culture of texting, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and online video games has concealed this fundamental reality, promoting and accelerating the premature transfer of allegiance to same-age peers.


How to strengthen the bond with your child

In all your arrangements for your child, try to make connecting with adults a higher priority than connecting with your child’s same-age peers or academics or after-school activities. Prioritize your extended family and your close adult friends in the life of your child.

- One simple strategy is to schedule vacations just for the family. When your daughter asks whether she can bring her best friend along, the answer must be no. If the best friend comes along, then a significant portion of time on the vacation will go to your daughter bonding with her best friend. The main purpose of the family vacation should be to strengthen the bonds between parent and child, not to give the kids an expensive playdate.
- When you are planning a vacation, look for opportunities for your child to connect with her aunts, uncles and grandparents. You want to give your child a different perspective. You want to connect her to your culture.
- Even simpler is to create rituals, such as a weekly parent-child visit to a local coffee shop. Taking a walk together to the coffee shop, if it is within walking distance, provides a good opportunity to talk and listen to whatever your daughter or son might have to say.
The family supper, the family trip to the movies and even a ride in the car all provide opportunities to strengthen these bonds.

If you have the opportunity to move closer to your child’s aunts, uncles and grandparents, do it. (We did.)

Leonard Sax
Appendix 49 – articulated 49 (codified) Man/Passive

Daughter resists visiting dad after separation

http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/1732231183?accountid=14771

THIS WEEK’S TRAP

I’m newly separated, and my daughter refuses to go on visits with her dad. She’s nine years old and her dad has been a really hands-off parent throughout our marriage. He travels a lot and has left it mostly up to me. Now we’re going through a court battle and he wants half-time visitation. I’m told by my lawyer I have to comply, but I feel like I’m traumatizing her by sending her when she tells me she doesn't want to go - she cries, isn't sleeping the night before and clings to me. What do I do?

Traci, Vancouver

YOUR TWO CENTS

What you’re describing sounds serious and I'd talk with a child psychologist. They can also make recommendations if you and your ex aren't able to agree.

David, Richmond

You should follow your lawyer's recommendations! My sister ignored a court visitation order and I think that cost her access time. Now she's still trying to deal with it in court. Unless there's something unsafe happening, help your daughter adjust to the new changes as well as you can.

Jen, Vancouver

MICHELE KAMBOLIS SAYS

Regardless of how amicable a divorce, most children feel resistant to being with one parent or the other at some point. The rejected parent usually ends up feeling hurt or suspicious about where it's all coming from, and the other wonders what might be happening to leave the child feeling negative. Either way, it's upsetting for everyone and leaves parents in a quandary, wondering whether to align with the child's wishes or the custodial rights of their ex-partner. So what's a parent to do?

First of all, listen carefully to the reasons why your child is resistant to spending time with their dad. It may be that you can play a role in helping her share the factors that
may be contributing, along with what she needs to feel more comfortable. Keep in mind, kids should never be in a position of choosing where they're going - that's adult territory.

If you don't yet have a co-operative co-parenting relationship and facilitating open conversation with her dad isn't possible, reassure your daughter that you are all going through big and sometimes scary changes, and that it really will get easier. Give the emotion permission to show up and find ways together to make those feelings easier to manage.

If her anxiety doesn't subside, ensure your family doctor is well aware of the problem, referring to a specialist if need be. Finally, I urge you to bring a parenting coach into the fold. Parenting coaches come with a unique skill set to help parents get through tough decisions, better understand the needs of each child, make commitments and stick with them.

NEXT WEEK'S TRAP

I think my 17-year-old daughter is involved with her boss who seems to be in his 40s. On weekends she stays late at work (it’s a restaurant), and drinks after her shift, but denies that there’s anything going on. I'm really worried about her, but don’t feel there’s much I can do if she doesn't admit what's going on. She’s in Grade 12 and I don't believe I should force her to quit a job when she’ll be out of the house in eight months. Do I just let it play out?

Arlene, Burnaby

ADD YOUR TWO CENTS

Share your advice or a Parent Trap of your own by email: mmobile@shaw.ca

Credit: Michele Kambolis; Family Therapist
Appendix 50 – articulated 50 (codified) Man/Active

BMW 318is brings father, son closer together

This 1991 model is a throwback for Les Barsony, and is considered vintage by his 18-year-old offspring, Mason. Here’s why they love their car.

By: Jackie Burns Star Touch, Published on Fri Mar 18 2016
http://www.thestar.com/autos/2016/03/18/bmw-318is-brings-father-son-closer-together.html

Les Barsony, 52, is a business owner from Oakville. He is the proud owner of a 1991 BMW 318is, which he shares with his 18-year-old son, Mason.

When did Les first buy his car?

Les’s passion for all things automotive hasn’t wavered since he was a boy, stuffing his pockets every day with Hot Wheels cars. “I’ve given the bug to my son,” he says, adding they were in the market 18 months ago for a unique vehicle to share when they settled upon their BMW. “It kind of reminds me of a time when I was 30. Back then, I couldn’t afford a BMW,” says Les. “Mason doesn’t like new cars. He likes vintage, and to him ’91 is vintage!”

What does he love about it?

Les says he appreciates the “honesty of a car” that doesn’t rely on a bunch of high-tech gadgets to make it pretty and attractive. “It’s more the merits of the car; it handles well, it’s five speed,” he says, adding his son loves the fact it’s a stick-shift. Of course, it’s also the perfect vehicle for Mason to develop his mechanical skills. “When I was a kid, I had to fix it, I didn’t have the money to go somewhere. It’s the same kind of approach with my son,” says Les.

Where do they drive the car?

During the two weeks every month Les is in South Carolina running his company, Wesco Trailers. Mason gets full custody of the BMW, driving within the Toronto area and to his part-time job. When his dad returns to Oakville, however, they have to “arm wrestle” to see who gets to drive it.

How has the car changed Les’s life?

Les says the shared appreciation for the BMW has really strengthened the bond with his teenage son, giving them an opportunity to spend quality time discussing the vehicle or keeping it in tip-top shape. If the car starts doing something funny, Les says they’ll spend a Saturday morning working on it side-by-side. “It’s really drawn us together,” he says.

138