



Media Release: July 19, Lunch and Learn featuring Lin Haag, Wilfred Laurier University, at the Canadian Royal Annual Convention in Strathmore, AB

Over 60 members of the Canadian Royal Purple Society (CRPS) from 5 provinces will gather in Strathmore AB for their 8th National Annual meeting and Convention at which the organization will officially announce their newly adopted **cause - “Brain injury awareness and prevention”**.

“This has been an exciting ten months for our organization,” said President Barb Bambrick from Bashaw, AB. “Adopting this cause and recognizing the **intersection of brain injuries and interpersonal violence** has brought many opportunities and challenges for us. We are honoured to feature this important researcher and this issue at our convention.”

Wilfred Laurier University researcher, Lin Haag, has been invited to address a Lunch and Learn, July 19, to share her research conducted during the past two years of Covid. The research shows one in three women experience interpersonal violence and the majority of these women absorb hits to the head or strangulation often resulting in brain injuries. Shane Rempel of the Southern Alberta Brain Injury Association and Ashley Brosda of the Alberta Brain Care Centre will also address the gathering of media, professionals and CRPS membership.

“Inviting Lin Haag to share her knowledge with us is an invaluable opportunity for our members and Alberta’s professionals. The research is new and disturbing,” says Bambrick.

In recognition of the research and the on-line counselling work being done by the Toronto-based WomenattheCentrE organization, all five Royal Purple provincial associations will participate in a cheque parade of donations from lodges and communities from Ontario to British Columbia as well as private donations.

In addition, the Canadian Royal Purple will announce its first national **Purple Thursday** as the third Thursday in October – Oct 20, 2022. On this day, Canadian Royal Purple lodges across Canada will present Care bags to their local shelter and encourage the Canadian population to wear purple to raise awareness of the intersection of interpersonal violence and brain injuries.

“We have proved that in any situation, ‘we grow stronger together’. These two announcements - our cause and Purple Thursday – will enable our organization and members to truly take a leading role as a national partner in stopping the violence and raising awareness,” says President Bambrick.

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To the Media:

This is an important event in the world of interpersonal violence and acquired brain injuries. Both Lin Haag and Ashley Brosda are leading figures in the awareness of the connection of these two events in a person's life.

We will have a reception committee to meet you and provide you with additional written material. You will have the opportunity to do further interviews with everyone involved – the speakers and the Canadian Royal Purple. You are welcome to share in the lunch if you provide us with your booking ahead of time.

Event: Canadian Royal Purple National AGM and Convention
Strathmore, Alberta
July 17-19, 2022

Important Aspects

July 18 – 6:00 Banquet - introducing 2023 President Sandi Lougheed, Beechy, SK

July 19 – 12:00 noon Lunch and Learn featuring Lin Haag of the University of Toronto – a leading researcher

Making her first trip to Western Canada. Featuring the latest research into the intersection of interpersonal violence and acquired brain injuries.

Also speaking: Ashley Brosda, Alberta Brain Care Centre and Shane Rempel, Southern Alberta, Brain Injury Association

National Cheque Parade – donations to WomenatthecentrE

Formal announcement of National Purple Thursday – Oct 20, 2022

Question and Answer session featuring Lin Haag and members of the Alberta and Saskatchewan Brain Injury Associations



For immediate release

Lunch 'n Learn: July 19, 2022, noon at Strathmore Travelodge Inn

A Shadow Pandemic emerged over the last two years at the intersection of **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)** and **Brain Injury**. Researcher Lin Haag says that the number of women affected is staggering – 1 in 3 experience IPV - when one considers that most women who experience IPV, sustain a brain injury as a consequence.

Lin Haag is exploring the gendered experiences of brain injury - the barriers and facilitating factors influencing mental health, return to work, and social integration encountered by brain injured women survivors of intimate partner violence. She is a PhD candidate and Contract Faculty member with the Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University and a research trainee at the Acquired Brain Injury Research Lab at the University of Toronto.

Every year thousands of women experience intimate partner violence (IPV), receiving injuries from battery to the face, head, and neck, a pattern of violence potentially causing brain injury (BI). Early investigation has found higher rates of BI (up to 75%) in survivors of IPV. Unfortunately, very little has been done to examine this unique condition and the implications for support providers and survivors, particularly within a Canadian context, leaving women survivors vulnerable to increased rates of repeat violence, permanent disability, criminal justice system engagement, unemployment, homelessness, poverty, and mental health challenges.

The purpose of Lin Haag's talk in Strathmore is to provide some key information about brain injury in women exposed to intimate partner violence and introduce you to the Abused & Brain Injured Toolkit (abitookit.ca). Discussion will focus on brain injury basics along with the special challenges experienced by women exposed to intimate partner violence and how to use the toolkit to help you help survivors.

When: July 19, 2022- 12 noon

Where: Travelodge Inn, Strathmore, Alberta

Cost: \$60.00 includes lunch and presentation.

For more information contact Sandi Lougheed: blackstrap99@yahoo.com