



International Experts Gather to Discuss Best Policy and Practice to Prevent Sexual Abuse and Manage Sexual Offenders

For Immediate Release – November 1, 2011 (Toronto) – Over one thousand attendees will participate in the 30th Annual Research and Treatment Conference of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) being held November 2-5 at the Sheraton Centre Toronto. “Experts from around the world will discuss how to keep communities safe from sexual abuse, including best practices for preventing sexual re-offending.” reports Dr. Lawrence Ellerby, President of ATSA.

Dr. Mark Olver, Chair of the Criminal Justice Section of the Canadian Psychological Association adds, “the ATSA conference exemplifies the importance of comprehensive strategies for the assessment, treatment, and supervision of sex offenders to prevent and reduce sexual victimization and promote safer communities.”

Experts from a cross section of fields such as sexual abuse prevention, law enforcement, corrections, sex offender treatment and management, victim advocacy, and law will discuss the latest research and state-of-the-art clinical, management and public policy approaches and interventions to keep communities safer. Topics include assessment and treatment of sexually abusive behavior; Internet sex offending; pedophilia; and current and recommended public policy to prevent sex offender re-offence.

Canadian Psychological Association CEO, Dr. Karen Cohen, notes that “The ATSA conference is particularly timely as the Canadian government works to pass the *Protecting Children from Sexual Predators Act* of the proposed and debated *Safe Streets and Communities Act* (Bill C-10)”. CPA joins ATSA in drawing public attention to the following research findings:

- The prevention and reduction of sexual offending is a key contributor to public safety;
- Addressing this issue leads to less crime and fewer victims;
- Evidence-based treatment with medium and high risk offenders provides the most cost-effective and successful strategy to preventing and reducing sexual offending; and
- Sanctions such as mandatory minimums imprisonment sentences and/or jail or prison time without available effective treatment does not reduce recidivism and may increase the risk of reoffending when the offender returns to the community.

About ATSA: The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers is an international, multi-disciplinary organization dedicated to preventing sexual abuse. Its members include front line operations staff, senior managers, policy makers, and academics. Through research, education,

and shared learning ATSA promotes evidence based practice, public policy and community



strategies that lead to the effective assessment, treatment and management of individuals who have sexually abused or are at risk to abuse. For more information about ATSA and this conference please visit the ATSA website at <http://www.atsa.com>

About the CPA: The Canadian Psychological Association is a not for profit professional association with 7000 members. It was organized in 1939 to improve the health and welfare of all Canadians; promote excellence and innovation in psychological research, education, and practice; and promote the advancement, development, dissemination, and application of psychological knowledge. For more information about the CPA and/or to find out more about criminal justice psychology, please visit <http://www.cpa.ca>

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Note that interviews can be scheduled for Thursday November 3, 2011 at the Sheraton Centre Toronto. Prominent researchers, practitioners presenting at the conference and available for interview include:

- Dr. Howard Barbaree, Toronto, Ontario,
 - Past Editor Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research & Treatment
 - Expertise in the areas of sex offender recidivism, prediction of recidivism and effects of treatment on recidivism
- Dr James Cantor, Toronto, Ontario,
 - Editor Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment
 - Expertise in the causes of pedophilia and development of atypical sexual interests; the role of biology and the brain; phallometry.
- Ms. Jennifer Dritt, Tallahassee, Florida
 - ATSA Board Member
 - Expertise in the areas of victim advocacy, child and adult survivor treatment
- Dr. Carmen Gress, Victoria, British Columbia,
 - ATSA Board Member, Canadian Representative
 - Expertise in the areas of sexual preference assessment, recidivism, risk management, and program evaluation.
- Ms. Alisa Klein, Leeds, Massachusetts
 - ATSA's Public Policy Consultant
 - Expertise in the area of sex offender public policy issues
- Dr. Elizabeth Letourneau, Baltimore, Maryland
 - Expertise in assessment and treatment issues juveniles with sexual behaviour problems and evaluation of sex offender public policy issues