

NEW FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESOURCE DEVELOPED FOR PEI FAITH COMMUNITIES



Dr. Philip Smith (right), chair of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention is joined by committee members Jane Ledwell (centre), PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson (left), Trinity United Church, Summerside.

January 31, 2013 --- The Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention is pleased to offer a new online resource, the *Faith Communities Guidebook to Family Violence Prevention*.

"Faith communities reach a large number of Islanders and have a special role in preventing and ending family violence in PEI", said Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson, clergy representative, Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention. "We know from a PEI survey of attitudes and beliefs about family violence that a significant percentage of respondents would go to leaders or clergy in their faith community if they needed help but we as faith leaders and faith communities may not always know how to help most effectively."

The guidebook, prepared on behalf of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, provides information and resources for spiritual leaders of all faiths who may be called upon to help those who have been abused or are abusive. It also includes recommended actions for faith communities. The guidebook can be downloaded from www.stopfamilyviolence.pe.ca/faith

Family Violence Prevention Week is February 10 to 16, 2013, across Prince Edward Island. Much activity is underway to promote family violence prevention and healthy relationships in PEI schools, communities, municipalities and workplaces. For further information and event details, visit www.stopfamilyviolence.pe.ca or contact the provincial Family Violence Prevention & Community Development Coordinator at 368-6712.