Virtually every person interacts with or is dependent on the care or services provided by institutions. This is especially true for children and youth who are the most dependent members of society. Whether the nature of the institution is education, health, spiritual, sport, non-profit or civic, each has an essential role in addressing interpersonal violence. However, most institutions lack concrete, user-friendly or evidence-based systems to reduce risk of violence against young people. The Canadian Red Cross “RespectED: Violence & Abuse Prevention” program has developed a training resource to help institutions develop, implement and maintain protective systems. This methodology has emerged from a combination of research findings, testing and piloting with organizations, and consultations and feedback with communities across Canada and countries around the world.

About the presenter:

Judi Fairholm R.N., B.Sc.N., M.Ed.

As Director, Judi spearheaded the growth of Canadian Red Cross RespectED: Violence & Abuse Prevention from a grassroots initiative to a national, award-winning program. RespectED works toward creating safe environments through preventing child/youth abuse, neglect, bullying, harassment, and interpersonal violence. In 2002 she received a Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for her tireless work, and in 2007 a Florence Nightingale Medal—the highest honour awarded by the International Committee of the Red Cross for nurses—for her contribution to child and youth safety. Since 2000 Judi has worked on international projects in Turkey, Sri Lanka, India, Guyana, Benin, Chad, Indonesia, Liberia, Australia, and with the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent (IFRC) disaster relief zones.

Judi’s role as educator, writer, consultant, and mentor, both nationally and internationally, gives her a broad knowledge base and global perspective. Her cross-cultural experience, collaborative approach, and development skills have enhanced her work with youth, educators, health and welfare professionals, Aboriginal communities, justice professionals, and sport and recreation organizations. In addition to her leadership of RespectED, Judi is currently working with the IFRC Secretariat to develop a Global Strategy on Violence Prevention, Mitigation and Response – a strategy that is integrated into the Federation’s work until 2020.