

***Engaging Men, Engaging Communities, Changing  
Attitudes:***

*Re-thinking the Role of Programs for Men Who are  
Violent Towards Women*

Canadian Domestic Violence Conference

Joachim Ostertag

# Plan

- Question: What else can PAR program providers do to end VAW?
- Look at systemic issues and where change needs to happen
- Ecological model re men's beliefs and PAR programs
- If belief systems are the major driving forces that lead men to abuse women, what needs to happen?
- Workshop on making change

Even if we had the greatest  
Programs for Men who Abuse.....

**Will these programs really end violence  
against women when we continue to expose  
boys and men to messages that are  
misogynist and sexist?**

If we really want to end violence against women  
we have to change the world

Olivier (5):

“Is it possible to change the  
world?”





# Treatment for Men Who Abused

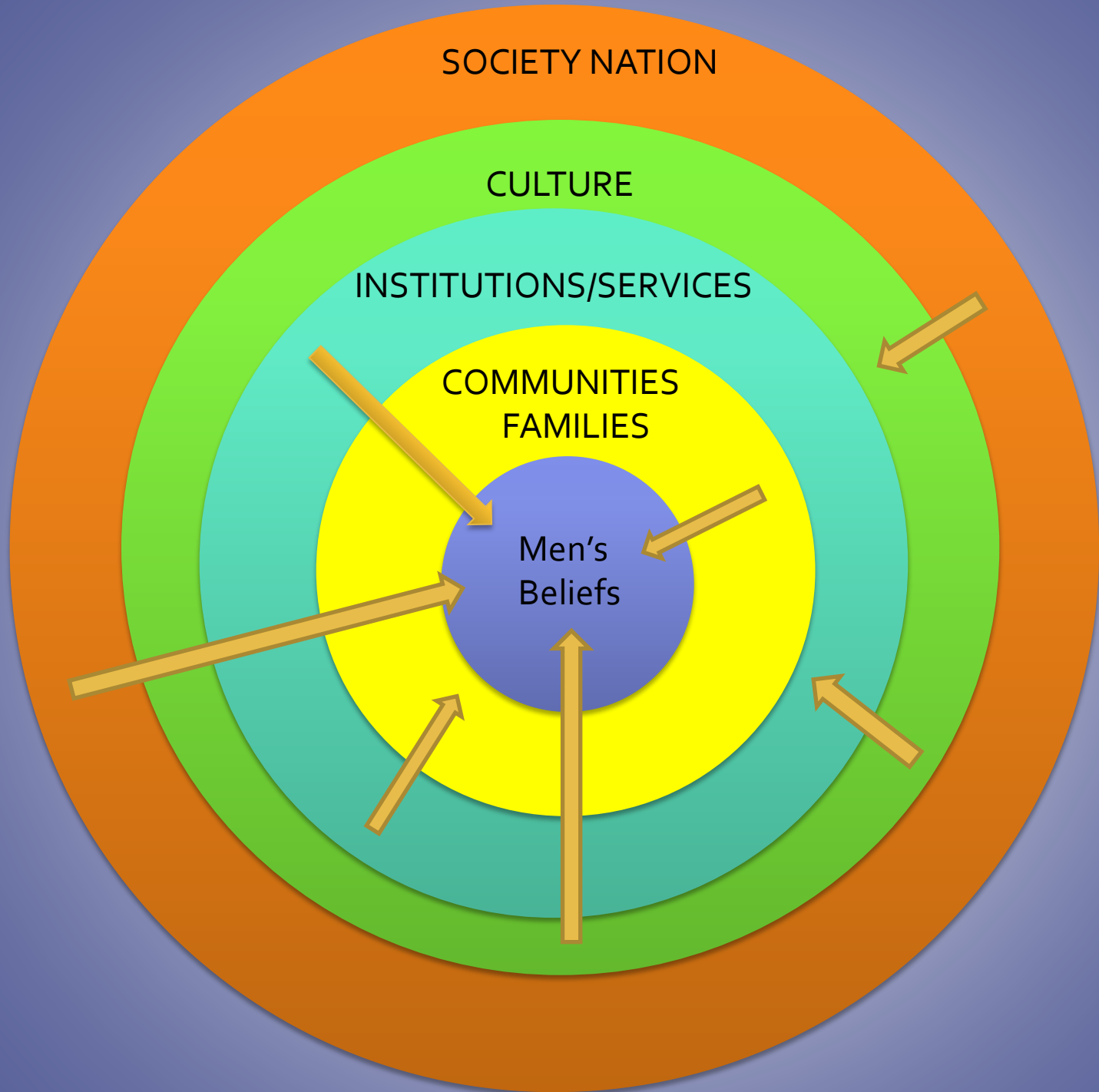
- Community Response
- Justice response
- Not just a therapeutic tool
- Look beyond abusive behaviours
- Abusive behaviours are result of belief systems



# Modified Ecological Model

- Mapping the influences on men's beliefs about gender and gender essentialism





SOCIETY NATION

CULTURE

INSTITUTIONS/SERVICES

COMMUNITIES  
FAMILIES

Men's  
Beliefs

# Changing beliefs

- Societal and cultural beliefs and narratives about gender continue to impact on men who attend and complete PAR, which makes it difficult to maintain what they may have gained in the programs.
- These beliefs continue to impact on boys who become men (men's box, school of masculinity)

# PAR PROGRAMS

- Funding is for court mandated men only
- Focus on treatment of individual men /offenders
- Some partner support, advocacy through partner contact
- No mandate or funding for systemic changes re VAW
- No mandate or encouragement for community engagement, public education, collaboration, social justice work etc.
- No prevention

# What else could / need PAR program providers do to end violence against women?

- Voice our expertise in the larger picture of VAW in our communities, services, culture, society and nation
- Recognize the many faces of VAW



# Many faces of VAW

- In families, intimate relationships
- First Nations/Aboriginals (missing and murdered women)
- At work
- On campus
- With Police
- With Military
- On the streets
- With Celebrities
- Sport
- Art

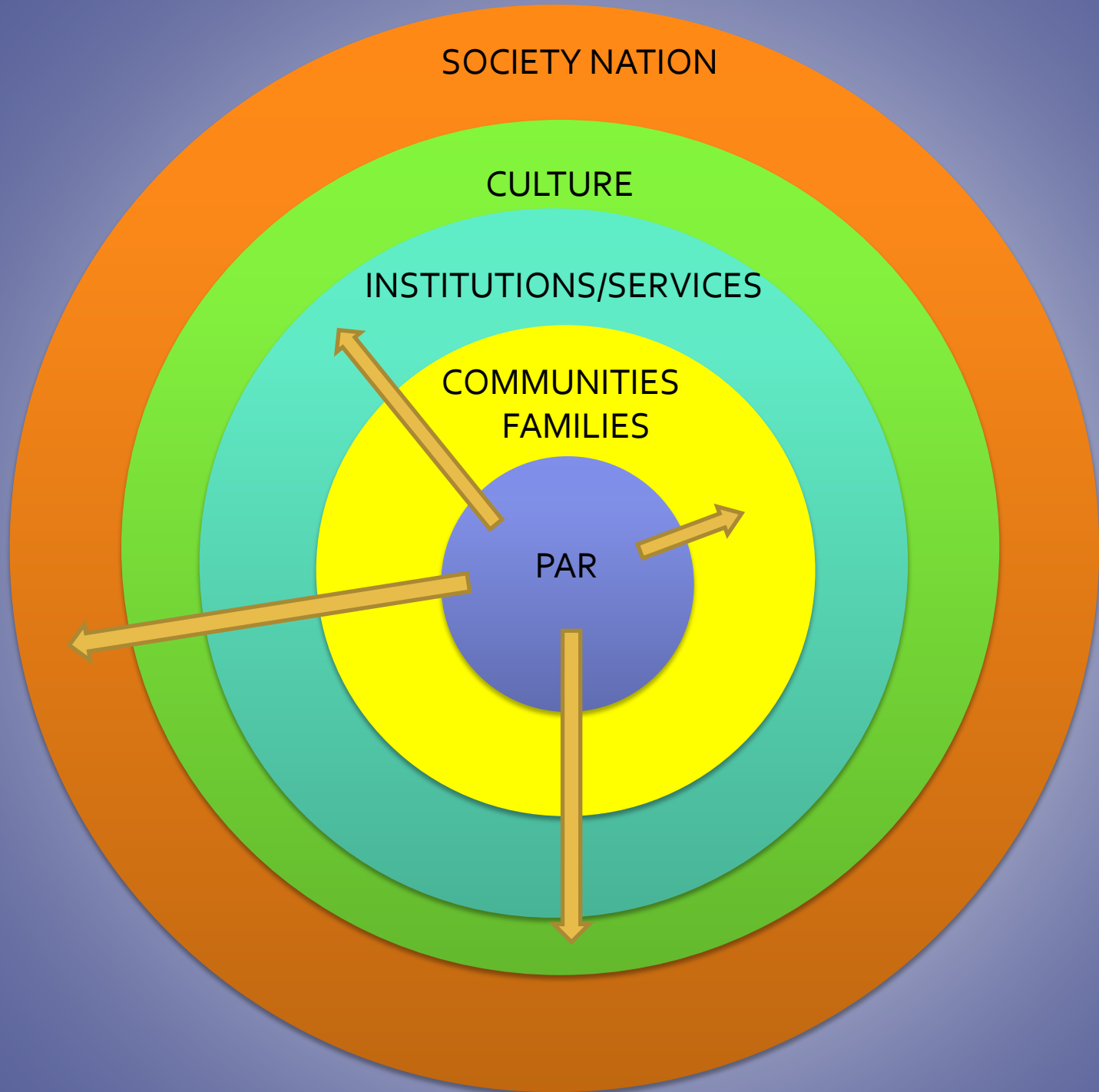
we need to connect the dots.....

....get involved

...step outside of our offices

# Mapping our work

## **Circles of influences**



SOCIETY NATION

CULTURE

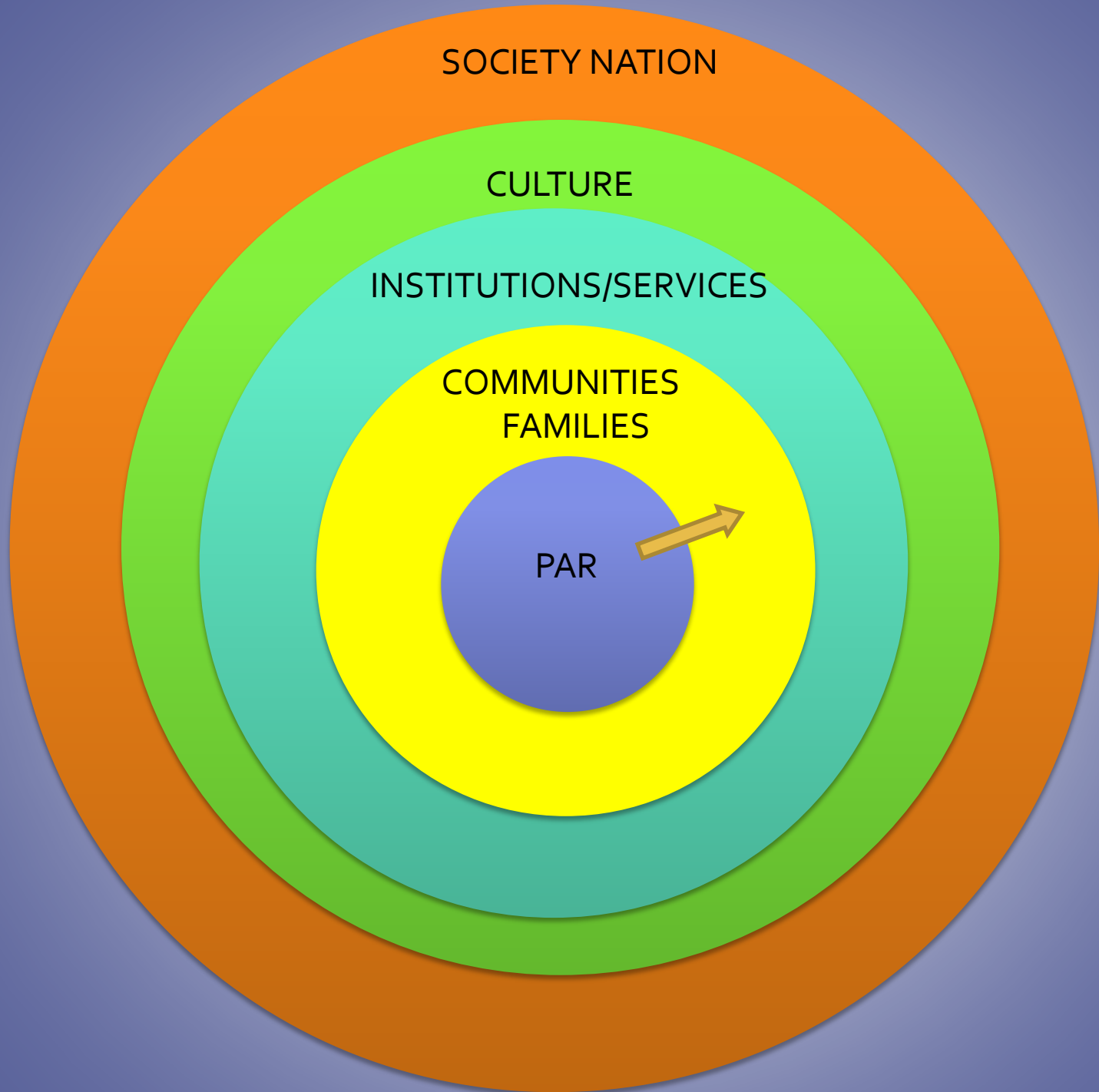
INSTITUTIONS/SERVICES

COMMUNITIES  
FAMILIES

PAR



# Engage Communities



SOCIETY NATION

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FAMILIES

PAR

# Who would we engage on community levels

- Neighbours, friends, families, colleagues
- Service clubs
- Other community groups and initiatives (e.g. 350.org, Idle no more)
- Sports teams
- Local art and culture: Choirs, Art Galleries, Theatre etc
- City Council
- News Media, letters to the editor on current issues re VAW
- Schools
- First Nations
- LGBTQ communities
- MPs, MPPS

## ♪ ♪ ♪ "WHAT ABOUT THIS WAR ON WOMEN THAT IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?" ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

5/12/2015

0 Comments

by  
David Moss-Cornett

It saddens me to read reports of women being degraded everyday. Yes, many groups of people in the world have been and still are oppressed, undervalued, and disrespected but I would say that women throughout history ...



and in present times are at the top of the list. The war on women is current and quite active all over the world and in our own peaceful and loving country of Canada.

All forms of abuse, any words and actions that make someone uncomfortable, are types of violence!

I am glad: more news is covering this, many more people are taking a stand advocating for peace, kindness, compassion and respect for everyone, as well as promoting value and gender equality.

Mossy Gatherings has an ongoing campaign called "[Musicians for Change](#)" in which artists have sent a photo, or a song, or art work as a reflection of their support for gender equality and safety. This is meant to inspire fans and followers to actively promote change. You can see this here: [Musicians for Change: Awareness and Prevention of Violence Against Women through Actions & Pictures.](#)

If you would like to be a part of this campaign please [contact us](#) and we would love to add your input.

### WE STILL HAVE A HELL OF A WAY TO GO!

In keeping with the theme of "war"  
Just as I am about to post this blog I read this headline on the CBC news website:

[Military's response to sexual misconduct report curtailed by general's orders](#)  
[Chief of the defence staff's directive set out 'assumption' that meant key recommendation would be ignored](#)



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BLOG.  
SUBMISSIONS  
TO THE  
EDITOR:

This information is requested so that we can communicate with you. Any personal information you provide to us will not be shared.

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State

Zip Code

Country

Phone Number \*

 -  - 

Are you a/an: \*

- Musician?  
 Music Lover?  
 Audio Engineer?  
 Music Promoter?





Beginnings

WOMEN'S KICK OFF PARTY  
EAT & ELECTRIFIED DAYBASH  
VIP 226.466.0984



WINGO BIKES

len's



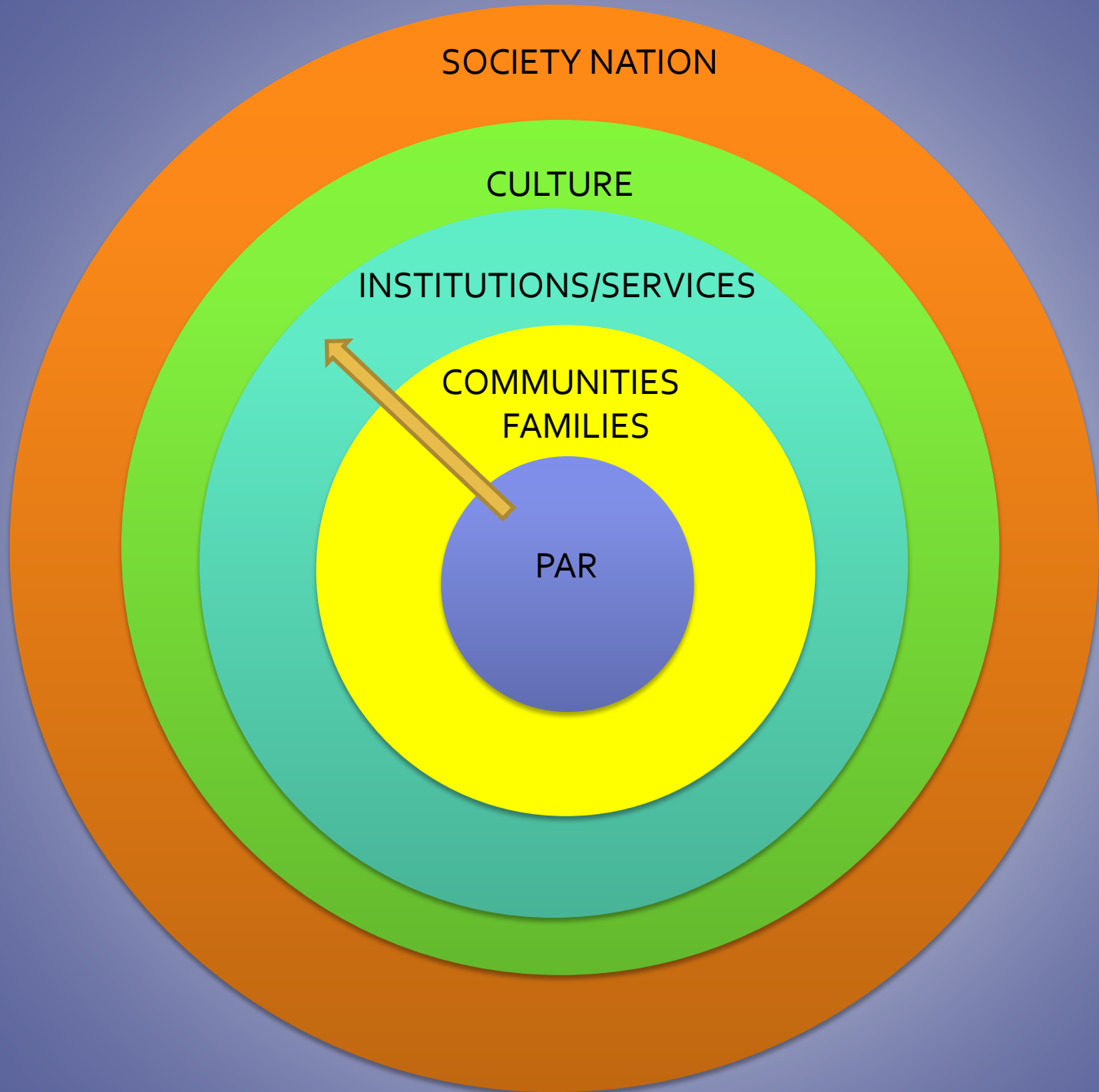
# Messages to Communities

- Men who abuse are not monsters (Globe and Mail, debunk myths)
- Men who abuse did not set out as kids to hurt women
- Men abusing women is not an anger management issue
- Woman abuse is not caused by men losing control. It is intended to gain power and control over women
- Woman abuse is a choice
- Speak up on local issues of VAW, sexism and misogyny
- Even men who abuse want caring relationships
- Most men know in their hearts that their abusive actions were wrong
- Most men want to change and don't know how
- Most men have been traumatized as children, youth and / or adults
- Awareness on abuse in the Military, Police, Missing and Murdered Aboriginal women etc.

# Messages to communities cont.

- Overcome us / them thinking. We all need to be part of change
- We need to support men and make them accountable
- Speak up: write letters to editor
- Participate in actions/rallies, initiatives, December 6, Sisters in Spirit, Take Back the Night
- Work with aboriginal people
- Collaborate with cultural groups and initiatives
- Educate about Highway of Tears
- Work with sports : hockey etc
- Get support form SPORT Teams, BC Lions
- Comment on VAW News. Respond to current issues, connect the dots, e.g. Celebrities

# Engage Institutions/Services



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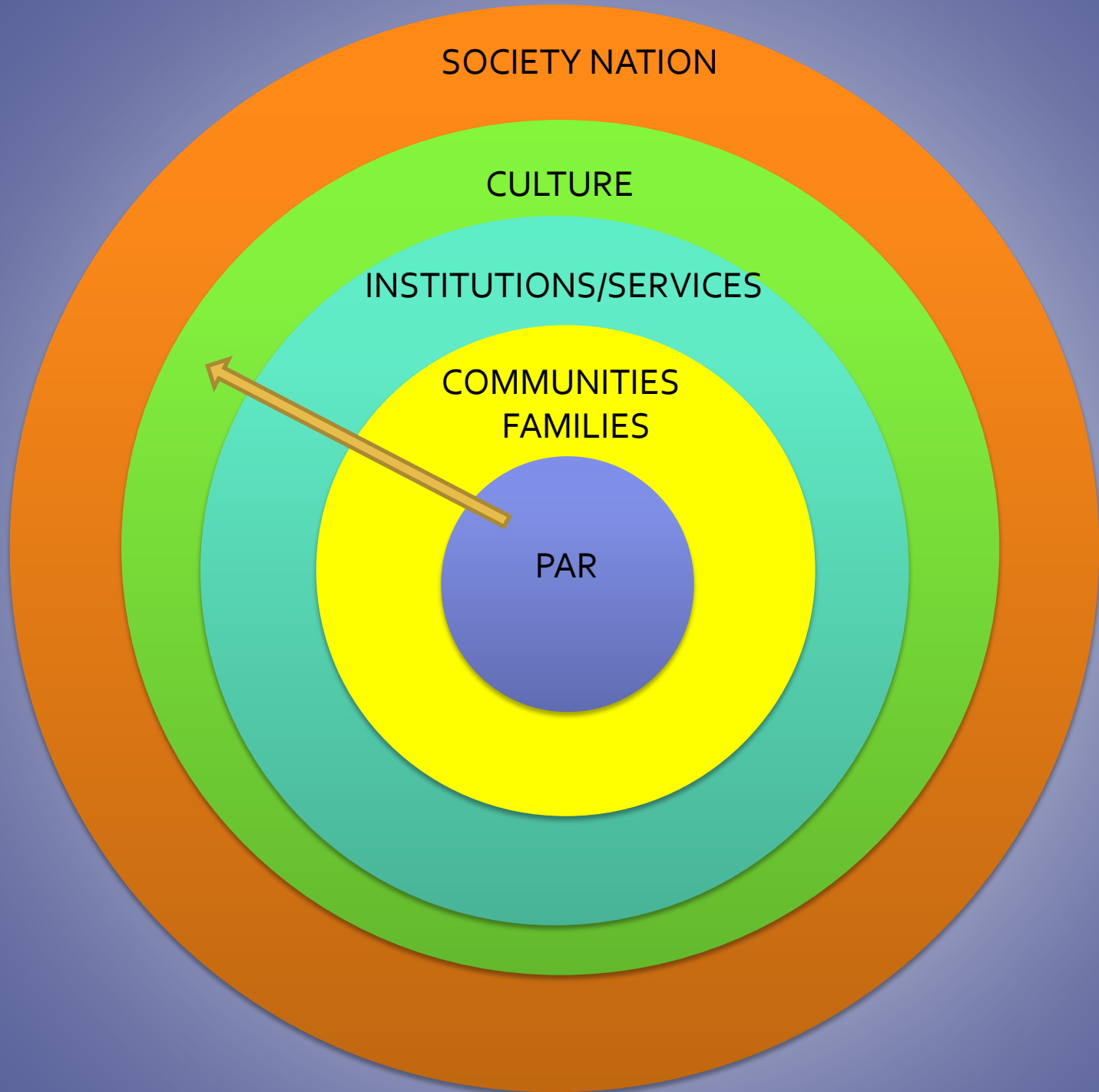
# Who would we engage?

- Daycare / Schools
- Mental Health / Addiction Services
- Medical Services
- Child Welfare
- Children's Mental Health
- Social Services
- Housing
- Libraries
- VAW Services
- Parenting / Responsible Fathering Programs
- First Nations/ Reserves

# Messages to Services

- We need to work together VAW, MH, Addictions, Housing et.
- Prevention: develop strategies for prevention rather than continuing exclusively on treatment
- Prevent DV means prevent child abuse
- VAW is major issue re children's, women's, men's mental health, addiction, poverty etc.
- Screen for DV and SA when working with children
- Screen for DV and SA when assessing men and women
- Need coordinated responses
- PAR services need to speak up on the overarching issues of VAW beyond their direct mandate
- Educate re VAW realities in our communities
- Others:

# Engage Cultural Institutions



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# Who do we engage?

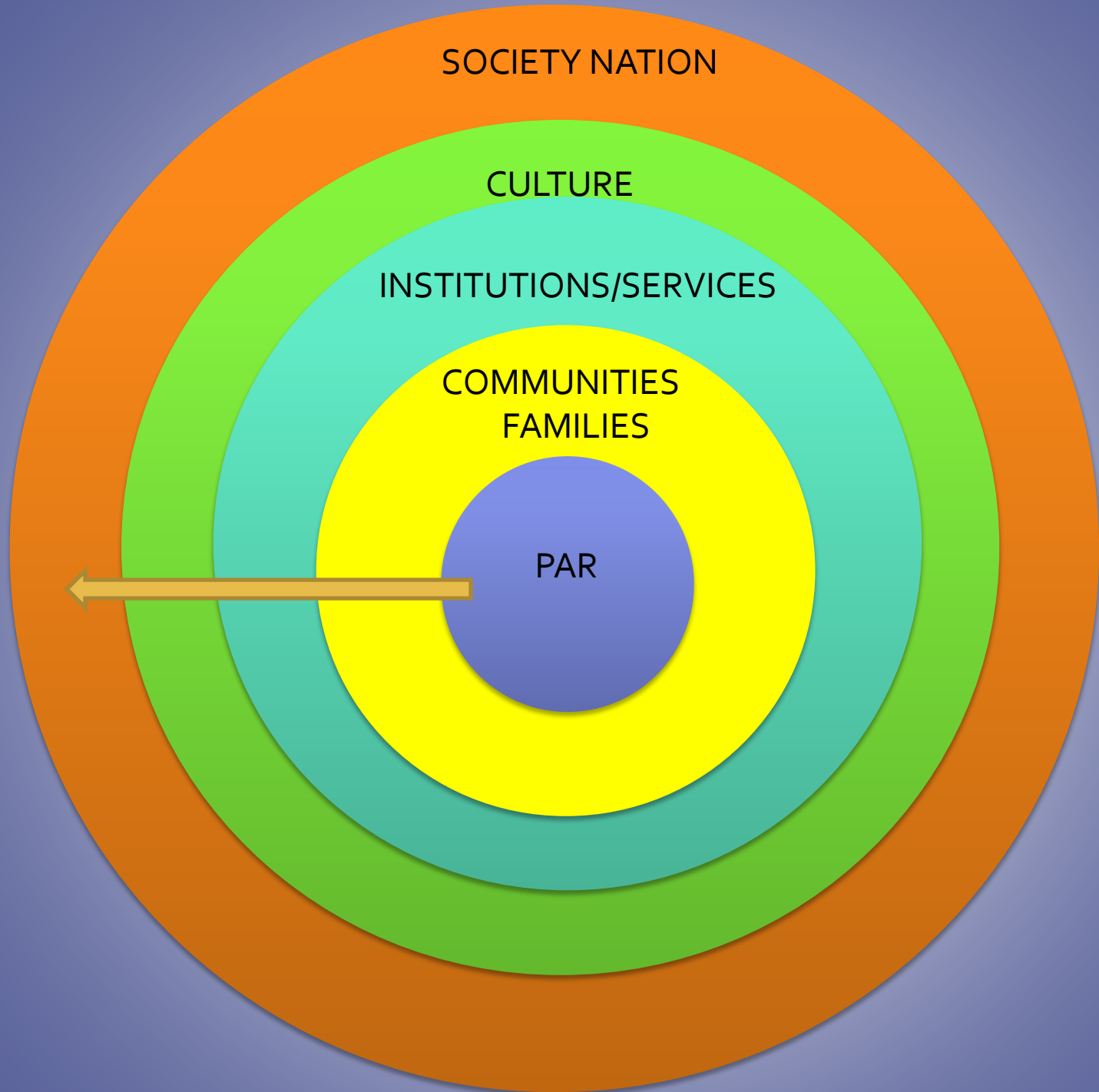
- Cultural Institutions: Music, Arts, Sports
- Politicians
- Religious institutions
- Grassroots initiatives
- Alternative arts communities
- Media outlets
- Others:



# Messages to Cultural Institutions

- Speak up re effects of misogynist language and images
- Effects of pornography on boys and men. Pledge for Change?
- Support alternative narratives re men / women
- Support alternative cultures
- Support initiatives re change
- Support Indigenous People and their culture
- Boycott music that glorifies woman abuse
- Address rape culture in sport, music lyrics





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# Who would we we engage ?

- Politicians / Parties
- Funding partners/ministries
- Media
- National Organizations
- Grassroots organizations / NGOs
- Aboriginal / First Nations initiatives (Idle No More, Missing and Murdered Women etc)
- Candidates during elections





COMMUNITY AND SERVICES  
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Mr. Inkbee

Change in Cycle  
East Virginia Autism Walkers  
www.changeincycle.org



# Messages to Society/Nation

- Educate on societal issues VAW and DV.
- Educate funders re differentiated issues and responses to VAW
- Sign petitions re VAW
- Connect the dots re VAW: VAW is Systemic, DV, Military, Police, Celebrities, Missing and Murdered Women, etc
- Be aware of and respond to National news re VAW, e.g. letter writing to politicians, newspapers, media, interviews etc.
- Need for a National inquiry
- Treatment for individuals is not enough
- Sparks – Flames - Fire of Change (Ellen Woodsworth)
- Advocate for legislation changes re VAW
- Support Sex education curriculum in Ontario



Gladys Radek (Tears for Justice) at Sisters in Spirit, October 4, 2014)





**Now what**



## MY CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

My expertise re male violence against women is:

I would like to work on the following changes:

My areas of influence are (and the people I know):

in my circle of community, neighbourhood, friends, work etc.:

In my circle of institutions/services (education, First Nations, health, mental health, addictions, housing, VAW etc.):

(Arts, entertainment, music, theatre, sports etc.):

Society / Nation (parties, different levels of government, grassroots movements etc.):



# Who can you address in your community, neighbourhoods etc

- Your message

# Which Institutions/Services in your community can you address?

- Your message

# Who can you address in the world of culture?

- Your message

# Who are the politicians you can address?

- Your message