

## **Strengthening Families in Canada: Report on January 19, 2006 Brown Bag Lunch**

On January 19, 2006, a Brown Bag Lunch Presentation was co-hosted by the four organizations that had collaborated to implement the *Strengthening Families in Canada: Violence Prevention Education and Outreach Project in Immigrant and Refugee Communities Project*. The event was held at Mount Carmel Clinic.

This event was part of the ongoing process of disseminating the learnings, successes and challenges of the Community Mobilization Program funded project to a wide audience. It clearly demonstrates the ongoing commitment of all four partners to continue to collaborate and build on this first phase of this project, and to build support for a second phase.

This event was preceded by a very successful Community Event (for dissemination, celebration, and planning) held in September 2005. In this case, this event was specifically aimed at service providers, government agencies, and potential funders. Our aim was to share what we had learned in implementing this project, to help build capacity among service providers to address family violence prevention within their communities and clients. A secondary aim was to garner further support and partnerships for the project in Phase 2.

Recruitment was done by developing and distributing a poster and project summary (sized-down version attached) mainly through email networks (e.g. Anita Friesen's WIRA/IUS network; family violence workers' associations; immigrant/refugee serving organizations; neighbourhood networks). Project partners also identified key groups and individuals, and forwarded invitations to them. Agencies and staff who had participated in the project (e.g. in the Men's Research focus groups) were also contacted.

The presentation (accompanying document) was developed and delivered by the four project partners: SERC (Sexuality Education Resource Centre), Klinik/Teen Talk, Mount Carmel Clinic/Cross Cultural Counselling Program (now the Multicultural Wellness Program), and Nor-West Co-Op Community Health Centre/Immigrant Women's Counselling Service.

The session was extremely well-attended. Fifty-two people attended from twenty-eight different groups, coalitions, agencies and government departments (see list attached). The range of agencies represented at the presentation was diverse, including, for example, seniors' organizations, family resource centres, neighbourhood coalitions, health organizations, immigrant-serving organizations, child protection/family violence agencies, and so on. Organizers also noted that people came from many different parts of the city of Winnipeg – River East, St. James, Downtown, St. Boniface, and so on.

After the presentation, many people approached the presenters to discuss the project further. We had a number of requests for more information on the project, and to have hard copies or e-copies of reports or presentations forwarded. Two agencies approached us, interested in linking with the project directly in Phase 2. One government agency requested our permission to put SERC's website as a link on theirs, to facilitate access to this project's reports.

In conclusion, project partners felt that based on the attendance levels, the positive feedback, and the increased networks and connections developed, that this process for dissemination of project successes, learnings and challenges was successful.

You are invited to a

**FREE INFORMATION SESSION on the:**

**STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IN CANADA  
PROJECT:**

**Violence Prevention Education & Outreach  
Project for  
Immigrant and Refugee Families  
(Phase 1)**

Find out about the successes, challenges, learnings and outcomes of this one year partnership project, aimed at raising awareness and knowledge about family violence, sexuality related issues and community resources and services for immigrant and refugee women, men, and youth.

We will outline several key components that underlie culturally competent violence prevention work in immigrant communities:

- collaboration and partnership development and maintenance
- community education and outreach
- individual and community engagement and capacity-building
- organizational capacity-building
- research and evaluation

**WHERE:** Mount Carmel Clinic, 886 Main Street

**WHEN:** Thursday January 19, 2006, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Bring your own "brown bag" lunch, refreshments provided.**

*We will be starting as promptly as possible, because of following room bookings.*

A limited number of copies of the *Immigrant Men's Needs Assessment on Family Violence Prevention* will be available.

See attached backgrounder to get more information.

Please RSVP to Shereen at [shereend@serc.mb.ca](mailto:shereend@serc.mb.ca) or 982-7812  
by Mon. Jan. 16, 2006.

Note: RSVPs not required, just helpful for organizing. All are welcome!

This project was funded by the **Community Mobilization Program, National Crime Prevention Strategy.**

Event is hosted by the four project partners:

- Immigrant Women's Counselling Service, Nor-West Co-op Community Health Centre
  - Multicultural Wellness Program, Mount Carmel Clinic
  - SERC (Sexuality Education Resource Centre)
  - Teen Talk/Klinik

## **THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IN CANADA PROJECT: Winter 2005 Update**

*Shereen Denetto, Special Projects Coordinator, Sexuality Education Resource Centre*

The first phase of the Strengthening Families In Canada Family Violence Prevention Project is coming to a close after an exciting year of activities. This project involved a partnership of four organizations: SERC (Sexuality Education Resource Centre), Klinik/Teen Talk, Mount Carmel Clinic/Cross Cultural Counselling Program (now the Multicultural Wellness Program), and Nor-West Co-Op Community Health Centre/Immigrant Women's Counselling Service. This project, aimed at engaging immigrant and refugee communities in family violence prevention, had three streams: a women's, a youth and a men's stream.

The women's and youth streams were composed of educational sessions on a wide range of topics such as: culture shock and acculturation, identity, signs and types of abuse, sexual health information, relevant Canadian laws, and community resources. Feedback from participants was uniformly positive. All reported an increase in knowledge and awareness of family violence and related issues, and many reported positive impacts on their lives and in their communities. Some participants described becoming "change agents" in their communities, serving as community resources on violence prevention.

The third stream consisted of a Men's Research Project, examining immigrant and refugee men's views of family violence and their suggestions for prevention education. In this community-based research process a lead researcher and a team of six immigrant and refugee men were hired to carry out the research. A literature review was conducted drawing from both formal and 'grey' literature (e.g. program reports), from across Canada and using some international sources. Sixty-five immigrant and refugee men from a wide range of backgrounds, as well as a number of Winnipeg service providers, were consulted. The results point to a need for an integrated approach to violence prevention in communities, one that includes all members of the community, and also identify several key themes that will serve as a basis for further work on this issue. The full Men's Report and a Plain Language summary are available on the SERC website at [www.serc.mb.ca](http://www.serc.mb.ca). Click on "SERC for Service Providers" and then "Immigrant/Refugee Services," and look under "Reports."

A Final Event and Community Celebration was held on September 21, 2005. Participants, their families and staff from all three streams came together to share successes, learnings and to develop recommendations for next steps. Project staff presented on what we had learned, and three participants and one researcher - Zhang, Serge, Diego and Hanh - shared thoughtful and inspiring words about the project, its positive impact on participants, and the importance of involving communities as active partners in violence prevention.

There was a strong turnout with close to one hundred people attending, fifty of them community member. Twenty-two people signed up for a report of the final event, and of these, thirteen wanted to get further involved in the project.

Entertainment was provided by the immensely talented youth dance group, "Colombia Tierra Querida." We were also very pleased to have a number of elected and government officials attend. MP Anita Neville, MP Judy Wasylicia-Leis and Marlene Bertrand for the Honourable Christine Melnick, Minister of Family Services and Housing, brought greetings. David Rice-Lampert attended on behalf of the Honorable Nancy Allen, Minister of Labour and Immigration and Gayle Michalyshyn attended on behalf of the Honourable Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Justice. This project was funded by the Community Mobilization Program, National Crime Prevention Strategy, and plans are underway for a second phase of the project. For more information, and for the Final Report (to be posted in early 2006), see [www.serc.mb.ca](http://www.serc.mb.ca).

## ATTENDANCE AT THE JANUARY 19 2006 STRENGTHENING FAMILIES BROWN BAG LUNCH PRESENTATION

**52 PEOPLE ATTENDED  
28 GROUPS/ORGANIZATIONS RECORDED**

Broadway Seniors Resource Council
City of Winnipeg, Community Services
David Livingstone
Elmwood community Resource Centre
Families Forward
Health Action Centre
Heritage Park Children's Programs (St. James)
Immigrant Women's Association Manitoba
Institute of Urban Studies
IRCOM House
Jewish Child and Family Services
Labour and Immigration
Manitoba Human Rights Commission
Manitoba Women's Advisory Council
Mennonite Central Committee
MSW Student, University of Manitoba
National Crime Prevention Centre
NEEDS Centre for War Affected
Pluri-Elles
Spence Neighbourhood Association Newcomer Youth Program
Status of Women Canada
Point Douglas Seniors' Coalition
Winnipeg Child and Family Services
Winnipeg Child and Family Services – Joint Intake R* Unit
Women's Health Clinic
WRHA Public Health (Hargrave)
WRHA, Access River East
YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg