

# Rebuilding from Resilience

Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Welcome

This is our first newsletter for the **Community Led Reduction of Domestic Violence in Aboriginal Communities: Rebuilding From Resilience Project**.

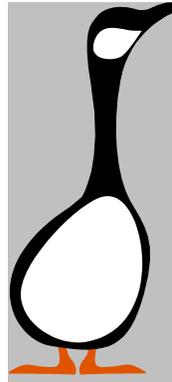
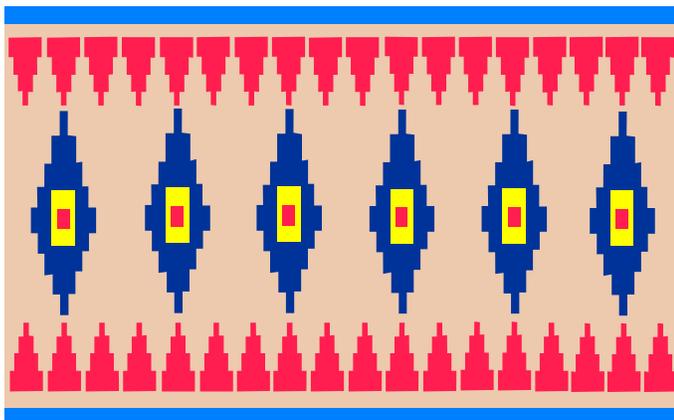
*Each of us, involved with this project, has been trying to figure out ways that we can better communicate with one another. This is our first effort to increase information flow. This newsletter will go out once a month to people involved in this project.*

*Articles were chosen this month based on some of the discussions that took place in March. It was decided that prevention should be the overall focus.*

*Next month, if people see this as an effective way to communicate, each of us can include news from our respective areas!*

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## What men can do to prevent Family Violence

Men can play a crucial role in helping to stop domestic violence. Men are already an integral part of the community that supports and interacts with families dealing with violence.

They are the majority of the judges, police officers, and doctors who work with families in crisis. Some men are the neighbors, friends, and family members who support victims by reaching out and lending a hand.

And yet, it is sometimes hard for men to join in the fight against family violence. They may believe it is a women's issue, and that they are not supposed to get involved. But family violence is everyone's concern, and there are many opportunities for involving men in making communities safer.

**Men are critical to violence prevention efforts because men are more likely to listen to other men when it comes to the perpetration of domestic violence, and because fathers have enormous influence over the development of their children.**

Here are just a few ways men can make a difference:

- Be role models to other men. Young men are uniquely positioned to reach out to other young men who are violent at home, to let them know, "You need help, and I want to help you. Your behavior is not acceptable."
- Take a vocal stand against domestic violence.

## **BREAKING NEWS**

**The Community Led Reduction in Domestic Violence in Aboriginal Communities – Rebuilding from Resilience Project ethics proposal was presented to the University of Ottawa Research Ethics Board at their regularly scheduled meeting in October 2009.**

**An update will be available once a decision is reached.**

## **Community Led Reduction in Domestic Violence in Aboriginal Communities – Rebuilding from Resilience**

### *Abstract*

**More domestic violence is reported in Aboriginal than in other populations in Canada.** In 2003, the five national Aboriginal organizations approved seed funding to develop a research proposal to investigate Aboriginal family violence. Consultations with women's shelters across the country produced a broad base for this proposal. The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) convened an Aboriginal national steering committee to oversee development of the domestic violence research framework.

Committee membership includes Aboriginal faculty at the universities of Ottawa and Saskatchewan, the RCMP, several community based Aboriginal organization involved with domestic violence and Elders.

**Appropriately resourced, many Aboriginal communities have the resilience to develop and to implement their own effective solutions to domestic violence.** A key resource is culturally appropriate scientific method to test the impact of community-led interventions.

This grant will develop the scientific basis to measure prevention of domestic violence in Aboriginal communities across Canada. **This research framework focuses on methods to measure the impact of interventions to reduce domestic violence in Aboriginal communities.**

The objective is for each community

- *to determine its own interventions to reduce domestic violence,*
- *to develop and to test tools and procedures for,*
- *develop proposals for and generate community buy-in to,*
- *a series of randomized controlled trials and*
- *other studies of prevention of domestic violence in Aboriginal communities.*

Although women's shelters deal with victims of domestic violence, **the framework addresses all other types of domestic violence (male and female children, elderly and disabled).** It includes Aboriginal communities, on and off reserve, in all provinces and territories.

*Familial violence by and against both men and women is a serious problem...but it is a problem for which both men and women share responsibility*

## Some say a Rose

Kinanaaskoomitinaan kaagithow keethawow *We thank you all of you*

Ooma oota waaskeet uskameek ithigook kwayus *Who on this Earth so very well*

Kaagitaap' miyaak oomsi isi *Watch over us in this way*

Meeg' waach oota eepimaat' siyaak *While we live here*

Kaagithow keethawow seetuk *All of you trees*

Waskwayuk ooskaatigwuk seetagwunaatigwuk

*Birches, pines spruce*

Kaagithow keethawow pisisk' wuk *All of you four-legged creatures*

Mahiganuk maageeseesuk muskwuk *Wolves, foxes, bears*

Ateeg' wuk amisk' wuk atimwuk *Caribou, beavers, dogs*

Kaagithow keethawow pitheeseesuk *All of you creatures of the air*

Chaachaagathoowuk peepeeks' eesuk *Blackbirds, robins*

Keeyaask' wuk seeseepuk mawg' wuk *Seagulls, ducks, loons*

Kaagithow keethawow neepeegaana meensa *All of you flowers, berries*

Ussiniyuk thootin nipi saagaa-iguna aski *Rocks, wind, water, lakes, the earth*

Kinanaaskoomitinaan aski *We thank you Earth*

Ithigook kwayus kaagana-ithimiyaak oomsi isi *For watching over us so well in this way*

Meeg' waach oota waaskeetuskameek eepimaat' siyaak *While we live here on this earth*

Ooma neet' naan ayut' sitinoowuk *Those of us known as humans*

Kinaanaskoomitinaan kisaageet' naan *We thank you, we love you*

Kinaanaaskoomitin Kisaageetin *I thank you, I love you.*

Source: Tomson Highway 2009 *Kisaageetin: A Cabaret.*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**9th International Looking After Children Conference**  
**October 25- 26- 27, 2010. Montreal, Canada. For information, contact: Marie-Andrée Poirier, associate professor. École de service social, Université de Montréal**  
[marie-andree.poirier@umontreal.ca](mailto:marie-andree.poirier@umontreal.ca)

**Pathways to Resilience II: The Social Ecology of Resilience, June 7th-10th, 2010.**

[http://www.resilienceresearch.org/014\\_mediabank/File/conference 2010/Brochure 20 July.pdf](http://www.resilienceresearch.org/014_mediabank/File/conference%202010/Brochure%20July.pdf)

- Men speaking out can have a powerful effect in helping change social norms that support and perpetuate abuse.
- Reach out to a family where domestic violence is present. Just offering to listen and acknowledging what is going on helps chip away at the walls that surround and isolate families living with abuse.
- Act as a role model to a child who lacks a positive male figure in his life. A male mentor and friend can provide consistent support, and even help the child make a safety plan.
- Take a leadership role in civic organizations, such as sports clubs, churches, and neighborhood associations, and speak out against violence in the home.
- SOURCE: <http://endabuse.org/>

