

President's Message

As UCCA continued into its sixth year, some new projects were started to respond to the needs of Edmonton communities. Two projects that UCCA is currently working on are "Enhancing Social Capital: One Strategy, Diverse Voices" funded by Alberta Justice – Human Rights Education Fund and "Cultural Liaison Specialists Project" funded by City of Edmonton – Community Services. "Collective Response to Support Victims: Sharing Responsibilities with New Canadians", a project funded by the Department of Justice Canada and offered in partnership with ASSIST Community Services Centre, benefited approximately 22,000 members of South Asian and Chinese communities. ASSIST Community Services Centre, along with Legal Aid Alberta (Family Law Office) is also partnering with UCCA in the development and implementation of the project "Cultural Liaison Specialists Project." In September this year, UCCA will start a new program to prepare immigrants for their citizenship examination. This program is funded by Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association. Alberta Children and Youth Services made available a grant to print and distribute 1500 additional copies of our resources – "A Self-Help Guide for Victims of Domestic Violence" and "Crimes, Not Cultures". UCCA presented copies of all its important resources along with the final evaluation reports to several ministries and other government agencies. We were also invited to a stakeholders' meeting to discuss key priorities for legislation of a Victims Bill of Rights attended by the Minister of Justice, the Honorable Peter Mackey. Under our Children in Distress Initiative, funds were made available to children whose lives have been disrupted due to violence in their homes. Our first research paper on the health effects of domestic violence on victims and witnesses is available on our website. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our funders, supporters and partners. I would also extend my heartfelt appreciation to all UCCA staff and volunteer for their sincere efforts toward building a better tomorrow.



UCCA representatives presented a set of resources developed by UCCA team to the Honorable Minister Jason Kenney

Collective Response to Support Victims: Sharing Responsibilities with New Canadians

(Funded by Department of Justice Canada)

Intimidated due to lack of knowledge of Canadian laws, legal/Justice system, support services and helping agencies, and restricted due to language and other barriers, newcomers often are unable to seek help when they become a victim of crime. In a unique partnership with ASSIST Community Services Centre, UCCA offered 8 workshops, submitted 10 newspaper articles and conducted 4 radio talks to improve the knowledge, skills, and confidence of newcomers to access justice system and other victims' assistance services. The target audience of this project was the members of the two largest ethnic minorities in Canada – Chinese and South Asian and a total number of 22, 175 individuals from these communities benefited from the project. The educational events undertaken covered the following topics: (1) Crime - what is crime in Canada, who is a victim, impact of crime on the victim, Canadian legal and justice system and institutions, victims assistance programs/services; (2) Newcomers as victims - how crimes can impact their immigration / citizenship status, who can help (3) Victims of fraud, identity theft and cyber crimes, legal remedies available to them, and (4) Victims of domestic violence – what is a domestic crime, domestic crimes that transcend international boundaries, what help is available, how to access help? Many workshops were conducted in Chinese and South Asian languages. Informative talk sessions and articles were presented in these languages at ethnic radio channels and community newspapers. In this way, the project addressed a significant gap by providing critical services in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner to vulnerable, high-risk immigrant populations.



Edmonton roundtable to discuss priorities for legislation of Victims Bill of Right

The Justice Minister, Hon. Peter Mackay, held a roundtable in Edmonton on July 25, 2013 to discuss impaired driving. “I believe we have to continue to send that signal of just how serious an incident that is, and the consequences – the consequences that you cause, and the consequences that you have to live with when you put drugs and alcohol in your system and get behind the wheel of a car,” Mackay said. The session was attended by the Hon. Laurie Hawn and Hon. James Rajotte, victims of impaired driving, members of Edmonton Police Service and UCCA members.

We thank Latika Srivastava and Daizy John-Verghese for representing UCCA at this event!



Enhancing Social Capital: One Strategy, Diverse Voices (Alberta Justice - Human Rights Education Fund)

A potential community education initiative, this project aims at assisting ethno-racial groups to develop effective strategies to raise adequate response to discriminatory behaviours. Such a response should not only be constitutional but also respectful to Canadian policy of multiculturalism, and should promote racial harmony. Under the project, we are developing 4 unique resources that will be a combination of comic strips, quizzes, explanations and narratives. The second activity of the project will be public education through train-the-trainer sessions in which UCCA will train 20 community members of different ethno-racial groups. Each of these will then offer 4 training sessions to the members of their community. It is anticipated that each session will be attended by a minimum of 15 participants. 2400 (600 X 4) copies of the comics will be distributed to the communities. They will also be posted to UCCA's website to make them available to a much larger audience and even after the project is over.

Health Impact of Domestic Violence on Victims and Witnesses – Educational Papers Series (Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Program)

Health issues following Post Traumatic Stress due to Intimate Partner Violence - The most common form of health impact of Intimate Partner Violence is chronic stress. Stress is associated with cardiovascular diseases, circulatory diseases, nervous disorders, asthma, chronic pain, gastrointestinal symptoms and migraines. Therefore, IPV is often correlated with these diseases although the direct cause-effect relationship in many cases is yet to be established. The paper discusses researches that have been conducted all across the world on the physical impact of IPV on the victim's health. It provides statistics that indicate the association between IPV and these diseases. Finally, it reviews the measures taken in North America to improve the prevention and treatment of chronic stress as a result of IPV.

Cultural Liaison Specialist Project: Training and Engagement of Multicultural Family Law Facilitators (City of Edmonton – Community Services)

The goal of this project is to train and engage a team of community interpreters to provide linguistic and cultural interpretation in legal settings. This will improve access of ethno-cultural groups to legal services and make these services culturally effective. Members of 8 to 10 ethnic groups will receive training to provide professional interpretation services. 200 individuals will receive direct services and 30 service providers will receive information on culture specific issues that relate to family law. Deb A. Miller, Senior Counsel and Dawn L. Nelson, EPOP Team Lead of Family Law Office, Legal Aid Alberta, who is a partner in this project, presented information on this project in their workshop - "MAKE IT SO: Communication, Collaboration & Cooperation to Increase Access to Justice in a Cross-Cultural World" at the Vancouver conference - CBA 2013 ENVISIONING EQUAL JUSTICE SUMMIT: BUILDING JUSTICE FOR EVERYONE on April 27.

Citizenship Education Program (Edmonton Communities Adult Learning Association)

This program will offer citizenship education to new Canadians and prepare them for their citizenship test.

Children in Distress Support Initiative (Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Program)

Under this project, UCCA supports children and youth ages 3—15, in distress situations by providing them small cash grants through requests of service providers. The initiative has been sincerely applauded by Edmonton communities: *"Your gift not only changes lives, it saves lives. Thank you for your dedication to making a change in our community. Together we can make a difference."*

Our hope to be able to make a difference is our true inspiration.

Projects that continue on...

Due to ongoing request for “A Self-help Guide for Victims of Domestic Violence” by service providers and communities, UCCA applied to Alberta Youth and Children’s Services for a grant to print and distribute 1200 more free copies of this manual. The grant has been approved.

300 more copies of “Crimes, Not Cultures” are available for free distribution. The book was presented by the Family Law Office (Legal Aid Alberta) at judges’ conference in Edmonton on February 29 and on April 27 at a law conference in Vancouver.

“World on a Maple Leaf: A Treasury of Canadian Multicultural Folktales” is still being distributed on request. It is also available at www.amazon.ca, Chapters and other stores, Edmonton public and other libraries. It was reviewed in prominent national dailies in India.

Acknowledgements

Department of Justice Canada

Collective Response to Support Victims:
Sharing Responsibilities with New Canadians

Alberta Justice Human Rights Education Fund

Enhancing Social Capital: One Strategy,
Diverse Voices

Enhancing Civic Participation among Ethno-
cultural Communities

World on a Maple Leaf: A Treasury of
Canadian Multicultural Folktales

City of Edmonton – Community Services

Cultural Liaison Specialists Project

Cultural Liaison Specialists – A Needs
Assessment

World on a Maple Leaf: A Treasury of
Canadian Multicultural Folktales

Creating Collaborative Framework for Legal
Response to Fraudulent International
Marriages

Organizational Development

Enhancing Civic Participation

Creating Inclusive Communities

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Settlement Legal Support Workers Program

Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association

Citizenship Education Program

Alberta Youth and Children’s Services

A Self-help Guide for Victims of Domestic
Violence and Crimes, Not Cultures

Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Program

Peace in Families Award

Health Impact of Domestic Violence

Children in Distress Support Project

Status of Women Canada

Strengthening Victims’ Response- A Self-Help
Guide for Victim of Domestic Violence

Enhancing Community Response to End
Violence – Crimes, Not Cultures

Our partners and supporters

Edmonton Public School Board – Resource Development Service

Publication of “World on a Maple Leaf”

CIAF-V

Peace in Families Award

Legal Aid Alberta (Family Law Office)
and ASSIST Community Services
Centre

Cultural Liaison Specialists Project



Congratulations!
← **Liz John-West**
Program Supervisor, LASALLE Residence
&
Anne Magusin →
Duty Counsel, EPOP, Family Law Office
on receiving
UCCA Peace in Families Award 2012



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