

Annual Report April 2010 – March 2011

On September 5, we completed our four years in service. In this short period, we have been able to establish ourselves as an important organization.

Today, we are receiving support from federal and provincial funding bodies such as Status of Women, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund. The City of Edmonton gave us our first grant after we were incorporated in September 2007. Since then we have received several grants from them under different program streams.

We have also been able to establish key partnerships. We have been a part of Diverse Voices Conference for the last two years to present our Peace in Families Award to end violence. Edmonton Public School Board, through its Resource Development Services, is publishing our collection of multicultural folktales, entitled "World on a Maple Leaf: A Treasury of Canadian Multicultural Folktales." Edmonton Immigrant Services Association provided valuable assistance in starting our new initiative – Settlement Legal Support Workers Program.

This past year saw successful start and closure of many projects. Two new projects were started with the funding support of Status of Women Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Three projects were concluded successfully in this period.

We have honoured six domestic violence workers who have provided exceptional service to end domestic violence. UCCA's request for nomination for this year's award has been sent out to several agencies and communities. We are working to develop two new initiatives – Children in Distress Fund and Health Research Awards for research on effects of domestic violence on victims.

I must indeed be very proud of UCCA's remarkable achievements over these years! However, I am immensely proud of being the leader of a group of women, each one of whom has distinguished herself for her competence and commitment. I congratulate and thank them for their work and am confident that with their support, UCCA will continue to grow and offer services to help communities and enhance their well being.



Acknowledgments

Status of Women Canada –
Women's Program

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

**Enhancing Community Response to End
Violence**

Citizenship and Immigration
Canada

**Settlement Legal Support Workers
Program**

Human Rights Education and
Multiculturalism Fund

**Enhancing Civic Participation among
Ethno-cultural Communities**

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

Community Spirit Program –
Donation Grant

City of Edmonton – Community
Services

Creating Inclusive Communities

Enhancing Civic Participation

Organizational Development

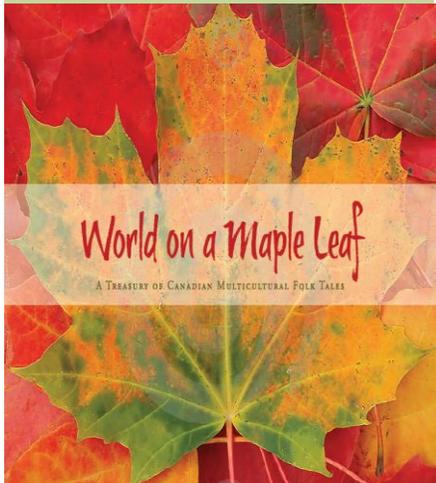
**Creating Collaborative Framework for
Legal Response to Fraudulent
International Marriages**

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

**Cultural Liaison Specialists – A Needs
Assessment**

An Overview: Program and Activities New/Current Programs and Projects

A Publication of UCCA



In April 2010, we started a new two-year project with financial assistance provided by Status of Women Canada Women's Program, entitled **"Enhancing Community Response to End Domestic Violence"** intended to educate communities in order to provide stronger support to victims of domestic violence to end violence. Domestic violence is not an individual or family problem. It is a societal problem and therefore its solution lies in a societal response. The community members need to be made aware of their role in preventing violence even if it is not affecting their personal lives. Besides, dynamics of domestic violence are complicated and it is possible to harm the victims further in an effort to help them. The project aims to involve community members and educate them to play a responsible and meaningful role through an array of activities. This ambitious project proposed to train 40 community members, both men and women, to further train 1000 other members of the community, facilitate self-defense training of 30 women, and educate another 200 women in the dynamics of family violence and empower them to end abuse in their own lives and the lives of others.

"The whole idea of females being inferior physically to men was changed, and I felt like I could handle myself in touch situations." – A participant of Self Defense Training

New Programs of UCCA

"When I talk with one lady she says I already passed through a bad experience and abuse in past but this material and information will be passed on to others so I help them because I know this pain."

- Participant - Train-the-trainer session

These kinds of programs will help the future generation to understand the consequences of domestic violence and help them to prevent or stop the violence from happening in the society

- Participant - Train-the-trainer session

"It is amazing to see how these Legal Information Sessions are helping us greatly! ...It all happens because we do not know"

- Participant – Legal Info Session

'Had I known what I learnt in this family law clinic, I would not have been hiding for the last three years.'

- Participant – Legal Info Session

" I believe this training will help me in my life and realize that I have more power and confidence than I believe."

- Participant: - Self Defense Training

To date 36 men and women have participated in our train-the-trainer session and educated 429 other members of the community. In addition, the training content was aired on a popular radio show. This program activity is still underway. Under RAD self-defense training, 24 community women received training. More than 100 women participated in various group information sessions. Under this project, UCCA is also creating a manual on cultural malpractices that remain unrecognized issues in domestic violence involving cultural communities, and preparing the ground for legislation.

Another new program that was started this year is **"Settlement Legal Support Worker Program"** with the funding support of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The primary goal of this program is to help newcomers stay out of harm's way by educating them in various aspects of Canadian Law.

The program intends to do so through a range of activities: group information sessions on various topics of law with different cultural communities; individual counseling; training of service providers in Canadian law; and resource development on different topics of law for public education.

In the first year of the program, UCCA developed a training curriculum on 15 different topics of law. In the past 10 months, after the start of the program, we have served approximately 150 clients through group information sessions and individual counseling. For public education, UCCA is working to develop a series of comic books on various topics of law with appropriate content and presentation suitable for edutainment. If appropriate financial support is made available, UCCA would like to expand the program to include legal support workers from other different cultural communities.

An Overview: Programs and Activities Completed Projects

A major project that was completed successfully in this period is – “Strengthening Victims’ Response to End Domestic Violence.” Funded by Status of Women –WP, it intended to empower women to prevent abuse by enhancing their skill and knowledge and improving their access to services. Two resources were created under this project: A detailed guidebook that incorporated the body of critical research as well as discussions; and a shorter version of the same encapsulating the research findings and presenting them in conversational question/answer format. The detailed book also included articles from several reigning Canadian and international scholars as well as professionals and experts of their fields.

The shorter manual has been received with overwhelming enthusiasm and applause from both service providers and communities. 1000 free copies of this manual have been distributed to community members and immigrant and mainstream agencies for further distribution to their clients. However, UCCA is continuously receiving requests from community members and agencies for additional copies. We have provided 250 copies to the Downtown division of Edmonton Police Service at a cost to them. Copies have also been provided to the city council upon request. This manual has been translated into Punjabi.

Another major project of UCCA that was completed in this period is collection of multicultural folktales with financial subsidy provided by Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund and City of Edmonton – Community Services. 25 members of different ethno-cultural communities have contributed popular folktales from their culture to this anthology. The goal of this project is to promote multiculturalism and foster moral values in children. All the stories selected present cultural values and wisdom in a way that inspires respect for different cultures and presents universal values. 1000 free copies of this book are being distributed to places such as schools, libraries, children’s hospitals, and community centres, where they can be available for children. Any revenue generated from the sale of other copies will go to UCCA Children in Distress Fund created to help children who are in need of help because of family or other conflicts.

A third Project that was concluded in this period is “Cultural Liaison Specialists Project: A needs Assessment.” Under two of its initial projects, UCCA had organized a series of group information session with key service providers and cultural communities. Through the input of approx 250 participants, it was established that we need cultural interpreters to act as a bridge between key service providers such as law enforcement and communities. The above project interviewed 30 service providers on the need of cultural liaison specialists. It also asked their recommendation regarding role and qualifications of these specialists. Nearly 50 community members also provided their input. With this, UCCA is prepared to launch a new initiative to create a team of cultural liaison specialists from different cultural communities.

A Publication of UCCA



An Initiative of
United Cultures of Canada Association

With financial assistance provided by Status of Women Canada

Reviews of the manual

“This manual has been much needed for a long time. It brings together all the important information in one place.”

- Sherry Benson,
Domestic Violence Intervention Team

“My parents were immigrant and I know firsthand the challenges that exist when families are exposed to a new way of life with limited supports. This manual is an excellent resource aimed at helping those facing the extra burden and challenges of domestic violence.”

- Mike Bartkus, Staff Sergeant
Domestic Offenders Crimes Section, EPS

I would recommend that the custom workers should distribute this booklet to new immigrants upon their arrival at airport... The booklet will help them understand the Canadian rules and their rights.

Gurdeep K Aujla
A community respondent

Moreover, this manual gives us an insight into the domestic violence and our rights related to marriage. I am sure people will get all the information required and can benefit most from it.”

- Mrs. Basota
A community respondent

Gregg Janz
Winner of Peace in Families Award 2010



Peace in Families Award

In November 2009, UCCA started “Peace in Families Award” to honour the work of domestic violence workers who have provided outstanding service to end violence. These awards are presented at the Diverse Voices Family Violence Conference. In 2010, the winners of this award were:

Gregg Janz, Ph.D. - Counseling Psychologist—YWCA

Sue Languedoc - Veteran social worker and founder of Aboriginal Consulting Services Association of Alberta

Fion Lee - Social worker with Responding to Victims of Family Violence in the Chinese Community Program

Special Thanks

Catherine Ripley

Edmonton Public School Trustee,
Ward H

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Trustee, Edmonton Public Library
Board

Dr. Asma Sayed

Comparative Literature, University
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*For their contribution to
multicultural folktales project in an
advisory capacity*

Dr. Christina Nsaliwa

Executive Director, Edmonton
Immigrant Services Association

*For her contribution to Settlement
Legal Support Worker Program in an
advisory capacity*

Constable Lisa Riou & Sofia Yaqub

Executive Director, Multicultural
Women & Seniors Services

For organizing self-defense training

All the presenters at information
sessions of UCCA

Initiatives under Planning

The two initiatives that UCCA is planning at this stage are: Children in Distress Trust Fund and Health Research Grant.

For the first initiative, UCCA intends to use the revenue generated from “World on a Maple Leaf: A Treasury of Canadian Multicultural Folktales” after distributing first 1000 copies. This will be a small grant to support children to meet their critical needs on a short term basis.

The other initiative will be funded by donations to UCCA and will aim to encourage research on short-term or long-term health effects of domestic violence on its victims.

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