

United Cultures of Canada Association

Serving Communities Since 2007

Annual Report 2016

Like all other years, in this reporting period also, we completed some projects, started new ones and also continued to work on some others. One of the three projects that we concluded this year is “Not One More Young Life” in which we educated over 150,000 members of ethnic communities on how to protect children and youth from cybersex crimes. “Integrative Restorative Justice” held a series of educational sessions and community dialogues to increase awareness on the restorative justice system and gather input from 66 community members on how it can be implemented to prevent domestic violence in cultural communities. We also concluded our three-year Multicultural Family Law Facilitators project under which we trained 64 interpreters to provide interpreting service in 34 different languages. These interpreters offered 160 service incidents over a total number of 376 hours to 22 Edmonton service providers. We also translated Canadian legal terminology into 10 ethnic languages. To further extend and expand this critical service, we received another grant for our project “Multicultural Legal Facilitators” to offer interpreting services in the areas of immigration, employment and landlord/tenant laws. Another new project that we are starting this year focuses on digital literacy to prepare individuals for everyday business in an increasingly digitized world. Programs that continued are our Citizenship Education, English as Another Language and Prevention of Nicotine Addiction with a record number of participants at 1366. An educational booklet “Justice They Wrote: HerStory of Equality from Verdicts of Canadian Courts” is ready for release under “Gender Equality in a Multicultural Context” project. All this is an incredible work, and as the President of United Cultures of Canada Association, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the entire team of staff and volunteers.

- **Dr. Rochelle Major, President**



Being Canadian Respecting Rights, Embracing Responsibilities

Participants of our citizenship education program at their citizenship ceremony

**Not One More Young Life:
Enhancing Power of Our Voice to Support Victims of
Cybersex Crimes**



With funding support from Justice Canada, and in partnership with ASSIST Community Services Centre, we offered this project that aimed to increase support for victims of cybersex crimes by educating youth, parents and guardians. 137 individuals from eight cultural communities (including South Asian, Arab, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino, Amharic and Oromo) participated in 18 educational sessions and 150,000 others received information through ethnic radio and newspapers. An information flyer was developed in English and translated into French and seven ethnic languages. 1200 copies of the flyer were distributed.

Our educational presentation included examples of cybersex crimes (solicitation, grooming, luring, child pornography, online sexual initiation/trafficking) and social media sites (Facebook, YouTube) used to perpetrate them. It explained the risk factors for victimization (mental health issues - depression and insomnia and socio-environmental issues - abuse and family conflict) as well as applicable laws (Criminal Code of Canada s. 163.1-2-3; 172.1 and Preventive Orders), referencing cases and court judgements to explain legal ramifications of cyber sex offences. Seven ethnic newspapers, one radio channel, four faith organizations hosted and many community centres supported us in the delivery of educational activities. Community input, including personal experiences and recommendations to prevent such crimes, was sought and recorded for future action on this critical concern.



Integrative Restorative Justice For Prevention of Domestic Violence in Cultural Communities

The goal of this project was to educate cultural communities on the restorative justice system and gather their input to implement it for prevention of domestic violence in their community. 66 individuals (16 Arab; 14 Spanish; 18 Punjabi; 16 Chinese) participated in 16 information sessions and community consultations. The information brochure was translated into Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, and Punjabi. A presentation was developed to explain restorative justice, its legislative base (Criminal Code of Canada S 718.2 (e)), goals and various models (Peace making/sentencing circles, community conferencing, victim-offender mediation and surrogate victim/offender program, etc.) Victims' needs (safety, information, choice), offenders' responsibilities and facilitators' role were also discussed as also limitations of restorative justice in situations of serious crimes. Participants were encouraged to share similar system in their cultural communities. They were also encouraged to discuss if they considered restorative justice to be an option for preventing domestic violence in their community and which model they considered to be most suitable.

Ongoing Initiatives of United Cultures of Canada Association

Our project, **Community Education to Prevent Nicotine Addiction in Immigrant Youth**, funded by Alberta Health Service completed its second year. In this year, 18 leaders from different communities immigrating from Egypt, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Eritrea, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Philippine, Indonesia and others, organized 26 workshops. An innovative community mobilization strategy that these leaders freely used for wider outreach involved kitchen table discussions at people's homes. The project thus enlisted the participation of 1366 individuals, far exceeding the projected participants' number, who also provided detailed evaluation to further strengthen this project.

English as Another Language, funded by Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association, was offered with the help of three dedicated volunteers and benefited 17 students. 68 students attended our **Citizenship Education Program**, and 95% passed their citizenship exam. Under our project, **Gender Equality in a Multicultural Context**, supported by Alberta Human Rights Education Fund, 62 members from eight different ethnic communities including, Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, South Asian, Filipino, African and East European, provided input on the difference between ethnic and Canadian norms regarding gender equality and information that can help understand how gender equality is upheld in Canada through policies and practice by human rights, legal/justice and other institutions. With this input, we have developed an educational booklet **"Justice They Wrote: HerStory of Equality from Verdicts of Canadian Courts"** that traces the progress of women's equality in Canada through 25 human rights and law court decisions over past 90 years since the Persons Case. This resource is being used for public education activities and distribution.



Strengthening Child Safety with New Immigrant Families Empowering Parents and Guardians to Deal with Youth Issues Bullying, Addiction, Abuse, Mental Health ...

The goal of this project is to empower immigrant parents, guardians and caregivers to increase safety and well-being of children and youth. UCCA has developed comprehensive public educational materials on key issues that can affect children and youth, such as bullying, addiction, mental health, racism, abuse, exposure to domestic violence, cyber offences and others. ASSIST Community Service Centre, a partner in the project, is offering a number of educational activities among immigrant and refugee groups based on the educational material. This is a three-year project and has been funded by Alberta Human Services – Family and Community Safety Program.

Interpreter Project

In April 2013, United Cultures of Canada Association, Legal Aid Alberta (Family Law Office) and ASSIST Community Services Centre started Multicultural Family Law Facilitators Project to ensure equal justice for Edmonton multicultural communities. Under the project, we developed a program to train individuals to provide interpreting at court and other legal events in more than 25 different languages. We received additional funding for a complementary project entitled “Supporting Edmonton Service Providers” from the Alberta Community Initiatives Program to make this free interpreting service available to non-legal service providers also, such as law enforcement, domestic violence, shelters, and other agencies. With access to this matching grant, we have been able to translate Canadian legal terminology into 10 ethnic languages, including Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic, Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Amharic, Oromo, Persian and Tagalog, which is available on our website to assist legal professionals, interpreters and communities to facilitate processes of law and justice.

Multicultural Family Law Facilitators Project was completed on December 31, 2015. In order for the team to be able to continue this service uninterrupted, and to further extend and expand it, the City of Edmonton considered another request for a new one-year project that would also include other areas of law such as immigration, landlord/tenant, employment and municipal bylaws. Other new components of this project are training of service providers from outside Edmonton, symposium for stakeholders and accreditation of interpreters. This new initiative, “Multicultural Legal Facilitators Project”, started on January 1, 2016. Edmonton Community Legal Centre, a highly esteemed organization for its work with newcomer communities, joined the partnership as its new fiscal agent. The project will continue until Dec. 2016.

A report prepared at the end of Dec 2015, outlining the final outcomes of the Multicultural Family Law project and partial outcomes of Supporting Edmonton Service Providers has provided the following details about these initiatives. 64 individuals speaking 34 different languages received interpreting training under the project. At least ten interpreters speak three or more languages. From Jan 2014 to Dec 2015, 160 service incidents were reported indicating a total number of 376 hours of service. The largest number of services were requested in Arabic (50), followed by Mandarin, French, Spanish, Punjabi, Somali, Russian, Vietnamese and other languages. 22 organizations used these services with Family Law Office (Legal Aid Alberta) requesting maximum number of services (78), followed by Edmonton Community Legal Centre, Family Justice Centre, Maintenance Enforcement Program, Queen’s Bench, Provincial Court, Sage, Today’s Centre, Amity House, Legal Services Centre, Wings, John Howard Society, Probation Centre, Alberta Works and the Domestic Violence Intervention Team. Immigrant serving organizations such as Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, Catholic Social Services, Multicultural Health Brokers’ Cooperative and Islamic Family Services Association also requested this service. Some case scenarios where the services were used are EPO hearing, review and appeal, child support and custody applications, case conferences, mediation, divorce hearing, court hearing for parenting order, legal clinics, translation of affidavit, sight translation of lawyers’ letters, and trial proceeding interpretation. The project is meeting a critical need of Edmonton communities, and we sincerely hope to receive ongoing support to make it a permanent feature of our city’s initiative to attract, retain and integrate newcomers.

New Program – Digital Literacy for Everyday Life

With financial support from ECALA, we are starting a new digital literacy program for adult learners. The distinguishing feature of this program is to increase digital savvy in individuals for changing ways of doing business in daily life, such as online banking and learning, various applications including immigration, passport and unemployment insurance, paying bills and buying using systems like PayPal.

Acknowledgements

Department of Justice Canada

Not One More Young Life: Enhancing the Power of Our Voice to Support Victims of Cybersex Crimes
 Shaping the Future Together: Not Victims Any Longer
 In Support of Victims: Call for Taking Action

Collective Response to Support Victims: Sharing Responsibilities with New Canadians

Alberta Justice Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund

Gender Equality in a Multicultural Context
 Enhancing Social Capital: One Strategy, Diverse Voices
 Enhancing Civic Participation among Ethnocultural Communities

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

Alberta Human Services – Family and Community Safety Program

Strengthening Child Safety with New Immigrant Families in Edmonton

Alberta Community Initiative Program

Supporting Edmonton Service Providers

Status of Women Canada

It Is Not In My Culture: Perspectives on Woman Abuse

Strengthening Victims' Response:

A Self-Help Guide for Victim of Domestic Violence

Enhancing Community Response to End Violence – *Crimes, Not Cultures*

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Settlement Legal Support Workers Program

Alberta Children and Youth Services

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

Alberta Health Service

Community Education to Prevent Nicotine Addiction in Immigrant Youth

Alberta Restorative Justice Association

Community-based Integrative Restorative Justice Practices for Prevention of Domestic Abuse in Ethno-racial Groups - An Initiative for Community Education and Consultations

Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association

Enhancing Digital Literacy
 Citizenship Education Program
 English as Another Language

City of Edmonton – Community Services

Multicultural Legal Facilitators
 Family Law Facilitators Project
 Community Investment Operating Grant
 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

Space Rental Subsidy

Enhancing Civic Participation

Creating Inclusive Communities

Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Program

Peace in Families Award

Health Impact of Domestic Violence on Victims and Witnesses

Children in Distress Support Project

Our partners and supporters

Community Initiative against Family Violence

Peace in Families Award

Legal Aid Alberta (Family Law Office)

Multicultural Legal Facilitators Project

Family Law Facilitators Project

Edmonton Community Legal Centre

Multicultural Legal Facilitators Project

ASSIST Community Services Centre

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Strengthening Child Safety with New Immigrant Families in Edmonton

Supporting Edmonton Service Providers

Shaping the Future Together: Not Victims Any Longer

Multicultural Family Law Facilitators Project

In Support of Victims: Call for Taking Action

Sharing Responsibilities with New Canadians

Edmonton Public Library – Stanley A Milner Branch

Office space

University of Alberta – Community Service Learning

Community Education for Preventing Nicotine Addiction



CONGRATULATIONS!

UCCA PEACE IN FAMILIES AWARD 2015 RECIPIENTS

Yvonne Chiu

Co-Executive Director, Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative

Morag McLean

Registered Nurse, Victorian Order of Nurses

Sean Armstrong

Staff Sergeant, Domestic Offenders Crime Section, Edmonton Police Service

David Kabyn

Sergeant, Domestic Violence Intervention Team, Edmonton Police Service