

1ST WORLD CONFERENCE
OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Discovering the
Common Core
PRACTICAL FRAMEWORKS FOR CHANGE



Men's Leadership Forum

Take your stand: Men against domestic violence

When the world's finest men speak out forcefully against spousal abuse and make it unacceptable for all men, they define strength in a new way.

When they take firm action because domestic violence is 'a men's issue,' they become powerful advocates for change.

We invite you to join an inspiring gathering of male leaders – in business, government, labour, athletics and community life – on the opening morning of the first World Conference of Women's Shelters.

The war in the home has left too many dead, too many wounded. Domestic violence is a profound abuse of human rights, an insult to the dignity of all people, an affliction that passes from one generation to the next. It can end with us.

Take your stand. Stand beside us.

Men's Leadership Forum
September 8, 2008
Shaw Conference Centre
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

For more information: www.womenshelter.ca



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Why a Men's Leadership Forum?

The international women's shelter movement needs allies. The good news is that many men recognize domestic violence and abuse is a men's issue – and they want to make it stop.

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters welcomed 300 people to its first *Breakfast with the Boys* in Alberta's capital city in 2005. Co-hosted by Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel and Edmonton Eskimos CEO, Hugh Campbell, the gathering not only raised money for women's shelters but produced unexpected reform.

Mr. Campbell encouraged guests to write to Alberta's Legislative Assembly requesting a change in the wording of the provincial marriage certificate. This campaign worked. Alberta's marriage certificate now requires applicants to state:

"I agree that neither I nor my intended spouse is the property of the other. I am aware that the laws of Alberta and Canada affirm my right to live within a marriage free from violence and abuse."

With new goals in mind, ACWS held a second men's breakfast in Edmonton the following year, and then set its sights on Calgary. Lanny McDonald and Jim Peplinski, former players with the Calgary Flames, joined federal Industry Minister Jim Prentice in hosting more than 200 Calgarians at the *Breakfast with the Guys* fundraiser in 2007. The crowd gave a standing ovation to Jackson Katz, American author and filmmaker, who urged Canadian men to work harder to change the attitudes and behavior of other men.

The idea of men's gatherings to support women's shelters is spreading to other Canadian provinces. Here in Alberta, we have also held a *Breakfast with the Chiefs* for aboriginal male leaders and a *Breakfast with the Mayors* is planned for later this year. We have also prepared an event planner to help other organizations organize similar events in their own communities.



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