



You are invited to attend

Breakfast with the Guys – World Leader's Forum

Partnership Proposal

Breakfast with the Guys-World Leader's Forum will be a pre-conference event as part of the first **World Conference of Women's Shelters** to be held at the SHAW Conference Center in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, from September 8-11, 2008. This event will see over 500 delegates, from around the world, gathering together to share best practices, to support and learn from one another and to develop partnerships which will assist in the goal of providing the best possible service to women and children in crisis.

The **Breakfast with the Guys – World Leaders Forum** will be an opportunity for a group of well recognized and well respected male leaders in the fields of business, labour, entertainment, sports, community and social justice to stand with us in speaking out against violence against women and children.

We would like to invite you, as a much-admired leader, to be our special guest at:

WHAT: *Breakfast with the Guys – World Leader's Forum*
WHEN **Monday, September 8, 2008**
7am – 9am
WHERE: **SHAW Conference Centre**
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Our keynote speaker Jackson Katz will challenge men to change the attitudes and behaviors of other men by taking a stand against gender based violence. *Research on social norms suggests that most young men are mistaken about other young men's attitudes and behaviors. In fact, most men are uncomfortable with violence against women and with the attitudes, behaviors, and language of men who commit such violence. But young men do not act on their beliefs or express their discomfort because they mistakenly think that other men do not feel the same as they do.* (from endabuse.org)

You can make a difference!

Imagine how a young man, who sees his hero speak out, will be empowered the next time he finds himself witness to abusive or violent behavior, towards women, by a friend, teammate or colleague.
You have the power and the influence to affect social change.

Leaders from the community will be invited to attend and to have the opportunity to “rub shoulders” with you and other male leaders they admire.

We ask that you attend the Breakfast, as our special guest, and if possible, give us up to 1 hour of time for media interviews after the event.

Backgrounder

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters represents the 41 women's emergency, second stage and senior's shelters across the province. We support the shelters with education and training, communications, public awareness, research, advocacy and emergency funding.

Shelters provide effective interventions for women escaping violent and abusive relationships and help women learn how to keep themselves and their children safe. One of the most important aspects of the shelters is protecting children's rights and preventing violence against children. ACWS would like to see every child in Alberta, safe, loved and living to his/her full potential.

On September 8-11, 2008, ACWS will host the first ever World Conference for Women's Shelters. *Discovering the Common Core: practical frameworks for change* will present a new opportunity for over 500 family violence workers and other service agencies from Alberta and around the world to learn from international experts and each other.

Alberta shelters are well-positioned to showcase the work they do, share common concerns and improve world wide networking. Too often, women's shelter work is overlooked in discussions on family violence, when in reality they are at the forefront of dealing with this issue.

Our work is supported by Jackson Katz, considered to be one of North America's leading anti violence activists and a keynote speaker at several of our men's breakfast events, who has described ACWS as being on the "cutting edge" in our work towards ending domestic violence. The World Health Organization has verbally indicated their support for this endeavor.

Our province leads, statistically, in stalking, assault, and murder-suicide and we are second in domestic homicide. We believe that the conference will help to highlight Alberta Shelters and our partnering sponsors, as emerging leaders in finding solutions to end violence against women.

Backgrounder continued...

In 2005 ACWS held a breakfast for men, which targeted male business, government, labor, and community leaders from the Edmonton area. The event was co-hosted by Mayor Stephen Mandel and Edmonton Eskimos CEO, Mr. Hugh Campbell. Close to 300 people attended the event and gave a standing ovation to our keynote speaker.

As a direct result of the first **Breakfast with the Boys** held in Edmonton in November 2005, a marriage Certificate issued by Alberta Registries now requires applicants to state the following:

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.

This addition to the document came about as result of action taken by Mr. Hugh Campbell right after the **Breakfast with the Boys** event in Edmonton in 2005. Mr. Campbell encouraged guests at the breakfast to write to their MLAs asking for the changes which were then implemented in 2006. At the Breakfast in 2006 Mr. Campbell announced this change. The 2nd breakfast event in Edmonton became a successful fundraiser for ACWS.

In March 2007, the **Breakfast with the Guys** event was held at the TELUS Convention Centre in Calgary. MC, Jim Peplinski, former NHL player with the Calgary Flames was joined by co chairs Minister Jim Prentice and former Calgary Flames Hall of Famer, Lanny McDonald. Close to 200 guests joined them for Breakfast to hear our keynote speaker, Jackson Katz, deliver the message that men must take a leadership role in changing the attitudes and behaviors of other men.

The breakfast event in Calgary was a huge success. Guests gave a standing ovation to the keynote speaker and several stayed to talk with him about some of their own ideas. ACWS was delighted to hold the event in a second community in Alberta. We have since had inquiries from several other communities wishing to hold their own breakfasts and have recently received funding to hold a **Breakfast with the Chiefs** for aboriginal male leaders. **Breakfast with the Mayors** is slated for the Alberta Union of Municipalities Conference in 2008. In fact, we have recently created a breakfast planner, to assist other communities in organizing similar events, which has been sent to organizations in BC, Manitoba and Ontario.

Our celebrity hosts have indicated that they would be willing to continue a partnership with ACWS and **Breakfast with the Boys** and **Breakfast with the Guys** is now an ACWS signature event. All indications from our guests are that it is an event that will continue to grow and that the message will continue to spread. Our hope is that changes will come about as a result.

ACWS is planning a **Breakfast with the Guys – World Leader's Forum** as part of our international conference.