

May 10th, 2005

Volume 1, Issue 1

The Men's Resource Centre Update

The Men's Resource Centre of Saskatoon

Telephone: 1-306-244-7950

www.saskatoonmenscenter.com

We are looking for:

- Individuals with fund raising experience, expertise or energy.
- Men or women who support our mission to work on our Board.
- Modest space to house our centre in Saskatoon

Individual Highlights:

Why?	2
Our mission	3

How we got here...

We are proud to announce that the Men's Resource Centre of Saskatoon was formally incorporated in the province of Saskatchewan on March 08th, 2005.

The centre started as a joint collaboration between Bruce Wood, a Saskatoon counselor, and students of the University of Saskatchewan leadership advantage program.

Through the winter months of 2004/2005 this 'working group' conducted extensive community consultations that included an on-line survey, public meetings and media interviews. The group also created a web site which has averaged over 3,000 visitors per month since November 2004.

The overwhelming (98% support) and positive response of Saskatoon community members led

to the establishment of an interim board of directors.

The centres board of directors immediately went to work crafting a mission statement, establishing links with other progressive men's centres, searching for space and applying to the Federal government for charitable status.

What is next for the Men's Resource Centre?

Our work in creating a safe and respectful service where men may access resources, information and support in dealing with mental health, physical health and interpersonal challenges has just begun!

Over the summer and into the fall of 2005 we are planning to establish a campaign for fundraising and we look forward to locating modest space that can house the centre.

We also continue to

actively seek out interested and supportive community members willing to sit on our board or one of our many working committees.

We are working in collaboration with the Saskatoon Public library in developing an extensive resource bank of information for men on issues ranging from parenting to prostate cancer.

We continue to build relationships with progressive organizations

in our own community and around the world and have established links with the Men's Resource Center network in the Unites States.

One of our goals is to become a place where men may start their journey to accessing established services in Saskatoon. The Men's Resource Centre wants to provide support to those in the community working with men rather than be seen as competing for men as clients or customers.



“As a society we should be worried about men’s well-being.”

Why a centre for men?

Men’s Centre in Saskatoon?

“Real men don’t need a men’s centre”, was one response to our survey about the possibility of creating a centre for men here in Saskatoon. Whether this response was “tongue in cheek” or serious matters little as the words reflect a long-held attitude about men asking for and receiving help in our society.

Yet adult men in North America are at great risk to die from many of the most commonly treatable and preventable health concerns. Men are more likely to be violent to their partners, more likely to complete suicide, more likely to be incarcerated and much less likely to reach out for help.

As a society we should be worried about men’s well-being. These issues are important because they affect our children and they impact on the safety and well being of women. But men’s overall health is important for the sake of our men as well.

A society where a large number of its members are dying at unnecessarily high rates, being incarcerated, assaulting those around them and hurting themselves is not a healthy society. As a group we feel that men are capable of more and well able to learn new ways of looking after themselves, parenting, relating to women and responding to each other.

Saskatoon service providers have and continue to try to reach out to men through offering counseling and support through specialized clinics and treatment programs. But the men often do not attend. It is all too common that the first and only call that programs and services receive about a man in trouble comes from his wife/ his sister or his mother. We men do each other a

great disservice by calling each other “whiners” and “sissies” when we ask for help or want to talk about our problems. We mock counseling for men and harbour “magical” thoughts like “If I don’t get a check-up I won’t know I have a problem and maybe it will go away on its own.”

Many North American communities have worked to address this problem by establishing men’s centres or men’s resource centres. These services take a variety of forms but they all operate from the belief that some men may better respond to dedicated services where they are treated with dignity, respect and confidentiality.

Here, in Saskatoon, we have the opportunity to learn from what has come before. Mindful of and with appreciation for the paths that have been blazed by the feminist movement we can create a place where men can receive support, information and challenge in an environment that is respectful.

A men’s centre here need not draw on public funds for support and can avoid becoming a place where women are viewed as “the enemy” or where First Nations, Gay or Transgendered men feel unwelcome.

We propose to provide a place where men feel like they are responded to with respect. We may simply provide some men with information about resources in the community while other men may decide to join us for support, sharing and a sense of community.

To date the response to our project has been very positive

and supportive. The need is clearly there and the energy to create this resource continues to grow.

We think its time to take some positive action and we look forward to your support!

Bruce Wood, Chairperson of the Men’s Resource Centre of Saskatoon



Our Mission Statement

The Mission Statement of the Men's Resource Centre of Saskatoon as adopted by our Board of Directors

Our purpose:

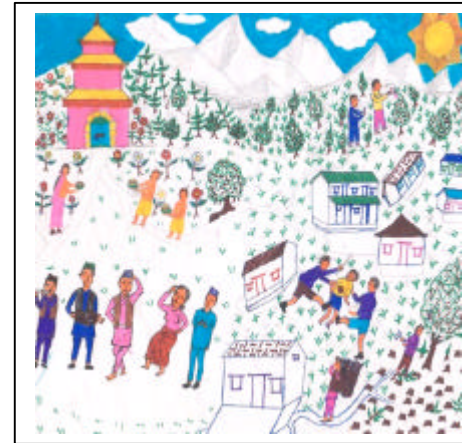
We strive to help men strengthen and reveal their essential nature which is among other things to be loving, caring, and sensitive, and to be healthy partners, fathers, role models, and community members.

Our values:

We are a male positive, pro-feminist, gay affirmative and anti-racist non-profit society open to men of all backgrounds, experiences and perspectives.

Our work together:

We do this through providing support, resources, and referrals and by offering a safe environment where men's experiences are honoured and respected.



A Nepalese boys' vision of a better world

Our survey

The survey that we conducted as part of our community consultation plan is available either in complete or summary format on request.

Simply send us an e mail via our web site (address provided elsewhere in this newsletter) or call us at 1-306-244-7950.

The survey includes detailed responses regarding the need for a men's centre and recommendations about services that should be provided.

Board members Resources

If you are interested in becoming a board member we would like to invite you to attend our next board meeting to meet with us.

Both men and women are welcome to be on our board and we simply ask that you complete our Board Member application form and attend a meeting of the existing board so that we can get to know you.

We also ask that you review our "Mission statement" prior to joining us in this effort.

If you have any books, articles, videos or other resources that might benefit adult men we welcome your donation.

We are looking for material (in particular) on parenting, relationships, health care, stress management, sexuality, andropause, and male violence.

"Both men and women are welcome to be on our board"