On the road from community based research to a national policy agenda: Seeking the impossible?

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FIRA

Father Involvement Research Alliance

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1. SSHRC CURA

•*Year 4.5*

2. CU Partnerships

- *9 Universities; 30 Partners*
- *foundation; cluster level; dissemination*

3. Two strategies

- Engaging Fathers/Agencies in research clusters
- Creating Canadian knowledge: thematic overview, demographic analyses; policy inventory

Indigenous Fathers

Immigrant Fathers

Gay Fathers

Separated/divorced fathers

Young fathers

New fathers

Fathers of children with special needs

Challenges to a national voice

- **Primacy of CU cluster teams**
- **Tensions inherent in CU partnerships**
- **Politics of fathers and families**

Families

Programs/
Agencies/
Workplaces

Provincial/Territories
Federal Government

International

FIRA Successes

Invited Policy dialogues:

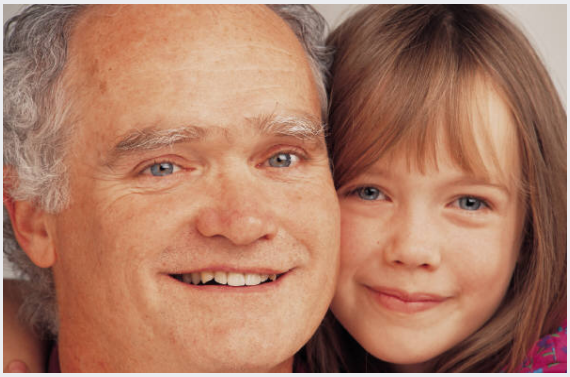
- Special advisor to Minister of Health
- Human Resources and Social Development
- Ontario Human Rights Commission Policy on family Status

Use of documents/resources

- Media coverage
- Advocate within and for local programs
- RFP from Department of Justice
- www.rebeldad.com

New international connections

- Baba (South Africa); Promundo (Brazil)



Current Directions

- Patience: context, respect, time…
- Supporting ambassadors (CU)
- Celebrate success
- Iterative process

FIRA Legacy:
Father Involvement

Social inclusion of fathers

- Scholarship
- Policy
- Practice

FIRA Legacy:
CU partnership

Applied learning

- Demonstrated value of civic engagement
- Extension of form & structure
  - Rural women & economic policy
  - Women in science & engineering in the academy (in partnership with NSERC)
  - Eldercare & work

FIRA

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www.fira.ca

Centre for Families, Work & Well-Being

University of Guelph

www.worklifecanada.ca

www.ecdip.org

early childhood development intercultural partnerships

Public Health Agency of Canada

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canada