

ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS COAST TO COAST



NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE AND WHITE RIBBON NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 5 | NOV 2016

For the past three years, White Ribbon has had the honour of coordinating a national community of practice initiative with nine organizations across Canada. White Ribbon is inspired by the dynamic and compelling initiatives which were spearheaded across the country. White Ribbon has had the privilege to meet with all nine organizations and their dedicated staff, in ending gender-based violence through the promotion of healthy masculinities. Together we have developed a cutting edge **national evaluation framework**, and online toolkit which profiles case studies, tools and engagement models from across Canada.

Throughout the years, we connected on a broad range of issues, from strength-based and positive approaches, the importance of inclusive language and messaging, strategies for sustaining male engagement/participation, and the power of dynamic youth engagement strategies. Drawing inspiration from each other's work and commitment- we met virtually on a quarterly basis. Engaging men and boys to see themselves as part of the solution to gender equality, and inspiring supportive and healthy masculinities can't be done by the work of one single organization.

These nation-wide initiatives have shifted gender norms in diverse contexts, from rural community centers, sports stadiums and schools. Future questions remain in how we can better synchronize and support gender-based violence initiatives happening across Canada. One thing remains clear- local context of communities matter. Engaging men and boys doesn't happen in a vacuum- strong and comprehensive needs assessments, whilst identifying local male allies and networks is critical for building upon initiatives, and garnering support. These programs represent a moment in time, and the importance of constant evolution and adaptation based on our changing ideas of gender, healthy masculinities and the need for creativity in identifying sites for change. Programs also pointed to the need to focus dialogue on inspiring men and boys to first define what healthy masculinity means to them, and identify concrete steps they can take in their own lives. Unpacking gender, power and privilege is a long-term and complex journey, and the rights and well-being of women and girls needs to be central.



RESOURCES

NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE TOOLKIT

- » [Huddle Up and Make the Call E-Module](#). Partnership between White Ribbon and the Toronto Argonauts
- » [MenEngage Partnership and Accountability Blog Series](#)
- » [Critical Dialogue on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Justice- Summary Report](#)



NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE TOOLKIT

WWW.CANPREVENTGBV.CA

The national community of practice is thrilled to share an online resource which profiles case studies, promising practices, and tools/activities related to gender-based violence prevention. The toolkit is a testament to the dynamic and innovative work across Canada. We hope the toolkit will inspire individuals across the gender spectrum to start to explore the root causes of gender-based violence, and to consider the roles they can play to promote gender equality. For practitioners, we offer resources and tools specific to your program planning stage which you can consider towards engaging men and boys. Resources sought to engage a wide range of target participants, from engaging with Inuit communities, youth in Winnipeg, sports teams to educational institutions. You can learn more about each of the nine organization's programming [here](#).



The national community of practice initiative is a demonstration of our collective impact to prevent gender-based violence. Thank you to all nine participating organizations- our National Community of Practice came to life through your energy, expertise and commitment to ending all forms of gender-based violence. Thank you to Status of Women Canada for the financial support for the National Community of Practice Initiative, and the vision to support work with men and boys in primary prevention across the country.



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White Ribbon acknowledges the support of Status of Women Canada.



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