



*Safer for Women ... Safer for Everyone*



## Our second edition!

METRAC is excited to send our second quarterly bulletin made especially for you, our dedicated members! We hope this bulletin will give you an up-close understanding about the work we have been doing for the past few months. We also hope that by reading this bulletin, you will have an opportunity to find out what you can do to get directly involved in the near future.

METRAC would like to thank you for being a member of METRAC and showing your commitment to make our communities *safer for women, safer for everyone*.

## Bowling to end sexual violence

METRAC was thrilled to participate in the 2006 Bowlathon to support the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre/ Multicultural Women Against Rape (TRCC/ MWAR). It was held on February 25 at the Bowlarama West. Our team of bowlers – the “Wonder Women” – raised more than \$800 to contribute to TRCC/ MWAR, a terrific organization that supports survivors of sexual violence. We enjoyed being in the bowlathon’s fun, positive, and radical bowling environment!

If you would like to learn more about TRCC/MWAR and find out how you can join its Annual Bowlathon, please visit their website at [www.trccmwar.ca](http://www.trccmwar.ca).



*The Wonder Women (METRAC’s bowling team), consisting of volunteers, staff, and supporters of METRAC and TRCC/ MWAR*

# Project spotlight: METRAC's RePlay Youth Project



Launched in September 2005, METRAC has been busily working on its special RePlay Project for youth aged 8 to 14 in Ontario. It's a video game violence prevention initiative that works directly with youth to develop violence prevention video games and accompanying written resources for youth, parents, and teachers. RePlay is one of many products being funded and developed as an Integrated Package of resources for the education and youth sectors under the Ontario Women's Directorate's Promoting Healthy Equal Relationship Community Grants Program.

We are excited about the RePlay project because it uses a popular, youth-friendly medium to empower children and youth to develop healthy, respectful relationships and equitable attitudes about girls and guys. Just take a look some statistics about game playing:

- 12.3% of households used the internet for the purpose of playing video games in 2000 and this number increased to 27.9% in 2003 (Statistics Canada, 2001, "Household Internet Use Survey", *The Daily*, 26 July; 2004 "Household Internet Use Survey", *The Daily*, 8 July).
- Children often spend many hours playing games on their computers or game systems. As Robert Needman (2001) states in *Video Games: Promises and Perils*, "when it comes to children, video games are like candy" (<http://www.drspock.com/article/0,1510,4186,00.html>).

Whereas mainstream video games have been criticized for sexist, oppressive, and violent content, the medium presents a powerful opportunity to connect with young people on a widescale basis. The RePlay Project hopes to utilize video games in a new way to promote anti-violence, respect, equity, and appreciation of differences. Contact RePlay's Project Coordinator for more details ([replay@metrac.org](mailto:replay@metrac.org) or 416-392-3227).

## Stay tuned ...

Mark your calendars for these upcoming 2006 METRAC events:

- Volunteer training (June 14 & 21)
- Annual *A Night Out with a Difference* fundraising event (September 18)
- Annual General Meeting (October 5)
- Member's Only *What's New in the Law Forum* (Fall)

Contact us for details.

## New Family Violence Resource for Youth

Respect in Action: Youth Preventing Violence (ReAct), METRAC's youth violence prevention peer program, has recently released a youth zine about Family Violence with the funding support of the Canadian Women's Foundation. Entitled *End the Silence on Family Violence*, this zine works in tandem with ReAct's new Family Violence three-part workshop series.

*End the Silence on Family Violence* includes a lot of important information, such as:



- Definitions of different forms of family violence
- Explanations about the connections between power, violence, gender, and age issues
- Critical analysis of mass media portrayals of family violence
- Myths and realities about family violence, including analysis of social stereotypes
- What youth can do to support friends dealing with family violence

The best part is that the zine has been written in clear, youth-friendly language. If you would like to get copies of ReAct's *End the Silence on Family Violence* zine, please contact METRAC directly or see our Online Publication Order Form ([www.metrac.org/programs/info/order.htm](http://www.metrac.org/programs/info/order.htm)).

## Ongoing wish list

As a small community-based organization, METRAC has many pressing equipment needs in order to run our programs well. Here are some of the things we are in need of for the organization's administration and delivery of violence prevention workshops:

- ✓ Portable CD/Cassette Tape player (CD-R compatible)
- ✓ 17+ inch television (recent make)
- ✓ VCR (recent make)
- ✓ An accessible office/programming space (approx. 2000 sq. feet)

If you are interested in donating any such items to METRAC, please contact us directly.

## New project announcement

METRAC just received funding from the Lesbian and Gay Community Appeal Foundation (LGCA) to deliver its *Safer Spaces for LGBTTQ Project*. It will work in partnership with many organizations to address the specific safety issues affecting Toronto's diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgendered & Queer (LGBTTQ) communities and strategize to enhance safety. More details to come!

## Upcoming edition ...

Our upcoming Members' Bulletin (July 2006) will be a very special edition. It will focus on media and violence issues – including interesting book, movie, and CD reviews by METRAC staff.

## METRAC in the media

Did you see METRAC in the media lately? Here are some examples of recent coverage:

- *The Toronto Star*, *National Post*, and other local papers: featured a METRAC deputation at a Toronto Police Services Board Meeting concerning implementation of a "Don't Ask" policy (to assist women living without status and experiencing violence)
- *The Hamilton Spectator* newspaper: featuring METRAC's analysis of femicide (murder of women by their partners) and covering a ReAct anti-bullying workshop series

Keep reading and watching for more!



Metropolitan Action Committee on  
Violence Against Women and Children

158 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON, Canada, M5R 2T8  
Phone 416-392-3135 | 416-392-3031(TTY) | 1-877-558-5570  
Fax 416-392-3136 | Email [info@metrac.org](mailto:info@metrac.org)  
Web [www.metrac.org](http://www.metrac.org) | [www.owjn.org](http://www.owjn.org)