

# Members' Bulletin

2006



*Safer for Women ... Safer for Everyone*



## Welcome to our first edition!

METRAC is excited to send our first quarterly bulletin made especially for you, our dedicated members! As members who care about the issue of violence against women, youth, and children, we know that you want to know what's happening at METRAC. We hope this bulletin will give you an up-close understanding about the work we have been doing and are planning to do to help prevent violence this year. We also hope that by reading this bulletin, you will have an opportunity to find out what you can do to get involved. Thank you for being a member of METRAC and showing your commitment to make our communities *safer for women, safer for everyone*.

### METRAC's Annual General Meeting

On October 27, 2005 METRAC held its Annual General Meeting (AGM). We voted on important organizational changes, and through the contribution of a panel discussion and creative presentation, we learned about the issue of media and its connection with violence against women. Thanks to *Shameless Magazine* co-editor Nicole Cohen, author of *It Could Never Happen to Me* Michelle Richards, Toronto Star journalist and author Judy Steed, and spoken word artist Gein Wong for being our guest speakers for this event! (See images on the right.)

Stay tuned for METRAC's upcoming AGM in fall 2006!



# New year, new plans to resist violence against women

Now that the new year is upon us, METRAC's Community Justice, Community Safety, and Community Outreach and Education Programs are looking forward to new opportunities to address the issue of violence against women, youth, and children in the Greater Toronto Area, Ontario, and beyond. Check out [www.metrac.org](http://www.metrac.org) for more information about our programs in general. We just went through some intensive planning sessions to set programming goals. Here is a summary of the plans we're most excited about for 2006:

- **Community Justice Program:** developing our partnership with Downtown Legal Services to increase our capacity to deliver workshops to women in crisis; increasing language and cultural access to our legal information materials by expanding the translation of them; advocating for changes to the custody provisions of the federal Divorce Act
- **Community Safety Program:** continuing the Safety Across Cultures Project (development of a culturally relevant Safety Audit Process to address unique safety needs of five ethno-lingual communities: Cantonese, French, Punjabi, Spanish, and Tamil); development of Safety Assessment Tools to address the safety needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, and queer (LGBTQ) communities; through partnerships, addressing barriers to community safety initiatives for sex trade workers
- **Community Outreach & Education Program:** expanding the Respect in Action (ReAct) youth violence prevention program to do more training with youth so they'll be able to start their own peer violence prevention work in high schools; working with local women artists and young women to use urban arts to raise awareness about violence against young women; doing unique new projects that use popular media to promote positive social change

Get ready for exciting initiatives at METRAC this year! We'll be updating you about them all as the year progresses – take a look at upcoming Members' Bulletins and Bi-Annual Newsletters to learn more, or browse our website.

## Stay tuned ...

METRAC will be hosting a very special **What's New in the Law Forum** in the Fall of 2006, exclusively for our members to update them on how the legal system is impacting women's rights in Canada today. Stay tuned for details about this members-only event!

## A Night Out With a Difference

METRAC hosted its Night Out *With a Difference* fundraising event on September 26, 2006. That night, we also launched our special RePlay video game project for youth 8-14. METRAC raised more than \$20,000, which will help us move to an accessible office location and expand our innovative programming to reach out to more communities.



*Part of our fabulous Silent Auction*



*Guest MC,  
Delightful  
Diva Shelley  
Hamilton  
([www.shelleyhamilton.com](http://www.shelleyhamilton.com))*



*METRAC's Executive Director, Wendy Komoitis and Board President, Stephanie Dutrizac*



*The Drake Hotel, downtown venue of A Night Out With a Difference*



*Hon. Sandra Pupatello, Minister, at the launch of METRAC's RePlay Project*

## 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 at 416-392-3135 or [info@metrac.org](mailto:info@metrac.org).

## Upcoming editions ...

Our upcoming Members' Bulletins will have interesting pieces just for you to read, including: popular movie reviews, important book reviews, and announcements about events you may want to attend. Keep reading!

## Make a statement

METRAC recently added something new to its order form: blue message bracelets that read "METRAC – End Violence Against Women, Youth, and Children". These eye-catching bracelets cost \$4.00 each. If you would like to make your statement against violence with them, please contact METRAC directly or use our online order form.



158 Spadina Rd., Toronto  
ON, Canada, M5R 2T8  
[www.metrac.org](http://www.metrac.org)

Phone: 416-392-3135  
Fax: 416-392-3136  
[info@metrac.org](mailto:info@metrac.org)