

# Members Bulletin

## METRAC Members E-Bulletin

July 2007

### Lerners Balancing the Scales: Making Justice Work for Women

On May 10, we hosted our first ever Lerners Balancing the Scales: Making Justice Work for Women fundraiser at SPIN Gallery in downtown Toronto. More than 100 people attended, and \$12,000 was raised in support of METRAC's Justice Program work for women and children. We were thrilled to enjoy live entertainment from our own Justice Coordinator, Farheen Beg, and dj vashti, a member of our Board of Directors. The event was made complete with a terrific silent auction and fine food from Rancho Relaxo. Our deepest thanks extend to event Title Sponsor, Lerner LLP, for their generous support. Thanks also goes to Gold Sponsors Commonwealth Legal, Paliare Roland Barristers and Solicitors, and the Canadian Auto Workers Union, as well as Silver Sponsors Green & Chercover Barristers and Solicitors and Goodmans LLP. Finally, we would like to thank our event donors, as well as volunteers and event attendees.



*Left to right: Jennifer Mathers (representative of Lerners LLP), Wendy Komiotis (METRAC Executive Director), and Min Kaur (President of METRAC's Board of Directors) at Lerners Balancing the Scales event*

### Every Child Deserves a Safe Home: Greeting Card Campaign



*Winning card designs from 2007 Every Child Deserves a Safe Home Greeting Card Campaign. Original designs created by (left to right): Emma, Magdalin, and Karen Ha.*

METRAC was pleased to launch its 2007 Greeting Card Campaign in May, "Every Child Deserves a Safe Home." Three winning card designs were chosen from dozens of wonderful student entries from the elementary school, middle/high school, and post secondary levels. Winners each received a \$200.00 cash prize, officially presented at our Lerners Balancing the Scales fundraiser. METRAC thanks our Campaign sponsors, Print Three Toronto and the Junior League of Toronto.

Emma, our elementary school winner, describes her design as a picture of her families. It shows that safe



158 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON, M5R 2T8  
Phone 416-392-3135 | 416-392-3031(TTY)  
Toll-free phone 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)

families are happy families. Magdalin created the winning middle school entry, which is a picture of children from around the world. She drew it because she believes that “every child should have a chance at having a violence-free home”. Finally, Karen Ha, our post-secondary winner, designed a card that reads “bandage-free, bruise-free, and violence-free.” It celebrates the innocence of children and their love of

play.

Cards are only \$2 each, and all three designs can be purchased for \$5. They’re suitable for all occasions, and receivers will be happy to know that proceeds support METRAC’s violence prevention work with children and youth. Contact METRAC directly to order your greeting cards today!

## Community Legal Information Trainings

METRAC’s legal information trainings are extremely popular amongst service providers and community members seeking to understand the legal rights of women and children experiencing violence. This fall, we are hosting a three-day training on issues of Family Law, Criminal Law, and Immigration and Refugee Law.

These trainings are designed to assist service providers by giving them necessary information to share with their clients. However, they are also set up in a “train-the-trainer” format, so that those being trained will be able to share their newfound knowledge with other service providers in the community. This model has repeatedly proven successful.

Although, METRAC’s fall legal training is booked up, you may be added to a waiting list. Additionally, you can also access METRAC’s other legal information resources, such as complete train-the-trainer kits and helpful multilingual information pamphlets and handbooks. Many of these resources are free or affordable, and they are well-used throughout the city and province. Visit [www.metrac.org](http://www.metrac.org)’s Publications page to discover legal information materials available to you.

For more resources, visit [www.owjn](http://www.owjn). It continues to hold a wealth of information about legal issues related to violence against women, youth, and children.

## RePlay: Finding Zoe Video Game Challenging Violence

We publically launched our violence prevention video game for youth 8 to 14, RePlay: Finding Zoe, in June 2007, alongside project partners funded by the Government of Ontario to promote healthy, equal relationships. It’s free to play online at [www.metrac.org](http://www.metrac.org),

and easy-to-read, practical accompanying educational materials for educators, parents/guardians, and youth are available for order directly from METRAC. We also presented the game at the Annual Games for Change Festival in New York City. Here, people from the gaming, educational, and community sectors played RePlay and gave their feedback.

RePlay is a youth-friendly educational tool that challenges violence and tackles everyday realities such as gender stereotypes and the “rumour mill” at school. It was produced in partnership with Take Action Games and is part of an integrated package of resources, including the White Ribbon Campaign in a Box, Tools for Change website, Roots of Equality Teachers’ Kit, and [equalityrules.ca](http://equalityrules.ca).

If you would like to order copies of RePlay materials, contact Andrea Gunraj, Outreach Manager, at 416-392-4760 and [outreach@metrac.org](mailto:outreach@metrac.org).



*Presenting RePlay: Finding Zoe at the Annual Games for Change games expo*

## Make Your Community Safer for Women, Children, and Everyone

METRAC's Safety Audit is a great tool to help neighbourhood groups identify factors in their communities that make them feel unsafe and communicate that to local decision-makers. What makes it so special is that it's designed to look at public spaces with the unique safety needs of women and other marginalized groups in mind. Plus, the audit is very accessible and holistic, available in English, Simplified Chinese, French, Punjabi, Spanish, and Tamil.

If you're interested in learning how to use the Safety Audit to make your neighbourhood safer, sign up for our FREE Safety Audit training to be held on Monday



September 17th from 6 to 8 PM in North York. ASL interpretation, childcare, and note-taking services can be requested up to September 1st. Contact Narina Nagra, METRAC's Safety Director, at 416-392-3137 or [safety@metrac.org](mailto:safety@metrac.org) to register or for more information.

## METRAC in the Media and Community



*METRAC's entry to Walk the Talk project, in honor of Gwendolyn Pilgrim of Toronto, age 35, who was murdered by her partner in June 2006.*

In response to a front-page article in the Toronto Star, METRAC wrote a letter to the Editor, published on June 27. It challenged how the common portrayal of violence against women as sudden, individualized experiences, despite statistics and research that show widespread it is and its power-based roots. For the letter's full text, visit [www.metrac.org/media.htm](http://www.metrac.org/media.htm).

METRAC also submitted an entry to the Walk the Talk to End Violence Against Women and Children travelling display. This event, presented by the Woman Abuse Council of Toronto, was designed to honour women who have experienced violence and raise public awareness of the issue.

## Save the Dates and Things to Look Forward to ...

**METRAC's Bowl 4 Change fundraiser**, in support of our Respect in Action (ReAct) peer youth violence prevention program: November 24 (contact METRAC for details at 416-392-4760)

**METRAC's Public Greeting Card Campaign**, in support of our work to prevent violence against children and youth: December 2007

**FREE Safety Audit Training:** September 17, 6 to 8 PM, North York location to be determined (contact METRAC for RSVP at 416-392-3137)

**Legal Training Workshops:** date (contact METRAC for details at 416-392-3138)

**Coming up in the fall:** METRAC will release brand new, accessible, and up-to-date written resources for order, including multilingual bookmarks on community services in the Greater Toronto Area and English and French tuck cards for youth on sexual assault, sexual harassment, and dating violence. These freshly designed, easy-to-read resources are perfect for service providers, educators, schools, and individuals. Contact METRAC for more information.