

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

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Father Involvement Research Alliance



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



Father Involvement Research Alliance

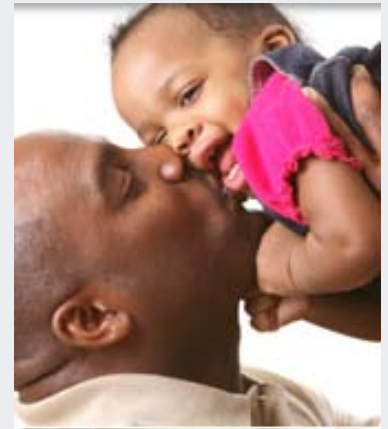
FIRA Successes

Invited Policy dialogues:

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

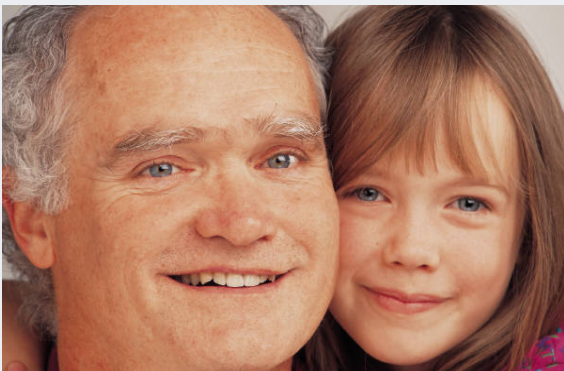
Use of documents/resources

- 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

www.fira.ca



Centre for Families, Work & Well-Being
University of Guelph

www.worklifecanada.ca



www.ecdip.org

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