



# **International Policy Forum on Family Violence**

## **A Follow-up Evaluation**

### **Executive Summary**

---

#### **Background**

The International Policy Forum on Family Violence was hosted by Alberta Children's Services on November 1-2, 2006. In October 2007, the Mobilizing Knowledge About Development (MKAD) project (a collaboration between the Alberta Centre on Child, Family and Community Research and the Community-University Partnership for the Study of Children, Youth, and Families) administered a follow-up survey to determine the long-term effects of this learning event.

#### **Participants**

Out of 42 distributed surveys, 22 participants (52.4%) completed the surveys either on paper or online, for a total of 22% of the full number of the forum participants (N=100). The majority of respondents were female (68.3%) and held graduate degrees (63.6%). They were most likely to be policymakers or policy advisors (36.4%) followed by researchers (22.7%), and had been in their roles for over a decade. The majority of respondents were involved in knowledge translation/mobilization (68.2%), strategic planning (63.6%), and evaluation (72.7%). Due to the small sample size, the generalizability of the results is limited.

#### **Key Findings**

1. On average, respondents were able to look back and rate the content of the learning event to be quite useful, even after almost a year had passed since their attendance at the event. The knowledge gained and relationships built since the event were both moderately influential to the respondents' work.
2. Respondents suggested that the changes initiated by the event pertained more to the understanding of family violence and collaboration than practical changes to their work. Specifically, participants noted an increased recognition of the benefits of collaboration, as well as a broadened understanding and knowledge of family violence policy in general.
3. While respondents' short answer responses indicated that they found the event to be useful, many of the benefits were conceptual and difficult to quantify. Thus, the identification of specific changes to respondents' activities since the event was limited.

#### **Conclusions**

In general, this event was seen as useful, even though a year had passed since respondents' attendance at the forum. It was especially useful in increasing the respondents' knowledge around the area of family violence policy, as well as promoting the awareness for the need for collaboration. This suggests that future events should continue providing the opportunity for participants to network and build meaningful relationships with other individuals working in their area.

March 18, 2008

Prepared by:  
**Katrina Fong**, Community-University Partnership  
for the Study of Children, Youth, and Families (CUP)