

Immigrant Women's Integration Network I-WIN

We are stronger together!



ASSIST Community
Services Centre

The Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, Assist Community Services Centre and the Millwoods Welcome Centre for Immigrants are grateful to Status of Women Canada for their generous support of this initiative.

Canada



Status of Women
Canada

Condition féminine
Canada

Outline

- Introduction to presenters and I-WIN
- Philosophy of I-WIN
- I-WIN Activities
- Our Stories
- Your turn
- I-WIN Outcomes
- Questions



Introduction

- Partnerships
- Cornerstones
- Social Capital
- Waterfalls



Philosophy

- Asset-based
- Sustainable Livelihoods Model
- SEWA – Self Employed Women’s Association



Philosophy

Asset-based

- Appreciative enquiry – ask the right questions
- Focus on strengths



Philosophy

Sustainable Livelihoods


- Designed by DFID (UK Department for International Development)
- Holistic model to determine what resources and strengths a person or community has at their disposal




Philosophy

Sustainable Livelihoods



- Holistic perspective
- Five asset categories
- Analysis of where a person or community is currently and where they need to move to, including the context in terms of strengths and vulnerabilities



 CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION
FONDATION CANADIENNE DES FEMMES

2.4.4 Mapping your assets - details


What Human Assets do I have now? 

.....
.....
.....

What Physical Assets do I have now?  **What Personal Assets do I have now?** 

What Financial Assets do I have now?  **What Social Assets do I have now?** 

.....
.....
.....

Participant Tool 

Philosophy

SEWA – The Self Employed Women's Association

- Started as a labour union in the Indian state of Gujarat, registered in 1972
- To date there are over 1.2 million members
- Based on the strength of self-employed women to collectively assert their rights
- Women lead the way

I-WIN Activities

- Logistics

- Groups meet for three hours, once a week, over an eight week period
- Groups are held at locations around the city convenient for participants
- I-WIN provides childcare, snacks and bus tickets
- I-WIN levels two, three, four and five give members the chance to train, co-facilitate, lead new groups and train more women to work with the network

- Atmosphere and Curriculum

- Creating a safe, supportive and trusting environment
- Sharing information and experience – everyone is a learner and everyone is a teacher
- Naming the skills, strengths and assets women bring with them
- Exploring directions for the future, both in terms of passion and paths to attain goals
- Guest speakers on topics identified by participants

I-WIN Activities

- Field trips and Network-wide Events
 - Family Barbecues
 - Day trip to Jasper
 - Belly Dance Workshop
 - Mediation Workshop
 - Family Camping Trip
 - Weekly information sharing emails



Our Stories



Your Turn!



What are your strongest assets in these categories?

Human Assets

- health
- ability to find and keep work
- skills and experience
- education and knowledge
- ability to set goals

Personal Assets

- How I value myself
- How motivated I am
- Self-esteem
- Self-confidence
- My ability to do things on my own
- My spirituality
- Sense of humor

Social Assets

- family, friends, coworkers, mentors
- ability to get along with others at work/school
- community
- ability to balance work and personal life
- ability to speak out

Outcomes

- Over 110 women have joined I-WIN
- 19 of those women have done the training to co-facilitate with I-WIN
- 62 women are working (both in career path and survival jobs)
- 25 women are both working and studying
- Beyond the numbers....motivation, confidence, connections



Questions?

