

PhotoVoice: Freedom from Poverty



IMAGES: LEFT: Stacey Desnomie, *Prisoner of Poverty* 2007 RIGHT: Robin Coutts, *Does the Parent Even Care?* 2007

Exhibition at Campion College Student Commons Area, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan February 29 to March 19, 2008

Poverty limits choices and steals the dignity of those affected, often trapping people within its barriers. Those who experience poverty are often viewed by others through stereotypes. PhotoVoice displays the perspectives of prairie women on poverty and public policy, allowing the viewer to see life as experienced by the women through their own eyes.

Twelve Regina women from diverse backgrounds and social locations have participated in the project. The participants took photographs and wrote text to accompany their pictures – their storytelling becoming a complement to their visual images. Through the project the women received some training in the use of a camera and learned how to critique photographs. The women participated in discussions about their photographs and determined what messages they wanted to convey.

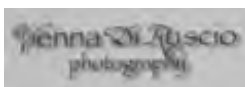
The photographic images and text in this exhibit provide a new view on poverty. They challenge society's opinion and promote a critical reappraisal of public policies that affect the economic security and social inclusion/exclusion of people living in poverty.

PhotoVoice Regina builds upon the experience of similar projects in Winnipeg and Saskatoon supported by the Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence. PhotoVoice Regina's first exhibition opened October 17, 2007, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Appreciation is expressed to PWHCE and its funder, Health Canada. The Regina Work Preparation Centre provided a place to meet and facilitators who volunteered their time to the project. Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina Public Library, assisted with administration, promotion, preparing photos and text for exhibition and installation of the 2007 exhibit. Thanks to Vienna Di Ruscio, for photography training, Don's Photo and Microprint for assisting with developing and mounting prints, and Jackie Lay for media training. Thanks especially to the students, professors and staff of Campion College for the invitation and assistance in setting up the Campion display.



REGINA WORK PREPARATION CENTRE



I'LL SPEAK

I'll speak for the tongues that have been silenced
I'll speak for you my friend
I'll speak for change and fairness
I'll speak for acceptance and tolerance

I'll tell you about the shades of life
I'll let you see through my eyes
I'll show you the invisible fences
 between your class and mine

Drop your sheltered vision, unprison your mind
Expand your horizons for a moment
- even if it is only for "pretend" –
Let your compassion melt your judgment

Hear me out
 Feel my pain
 See my struggle
 Understand my message
 And join me in a journey
 For justice and change

Let's make Freedom from Poverty everyone's Reality !

*by Marianna Topos,
PhotoVoice Regina Participant*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROJECT

Robin Coutts

Stacey Desnomie

Patti Geddes

Jane (pseudonym)

Lynette (pseudonym)

Julliette (pseudonym)

Melissa Northe

Eva Roesner

Krista Shore

Terri Sleva

Brenda Tamaki

Marianna Topos

PhotoVoice Regina Committee

April Buffalo-Robe, Regina Work
Preparation Centre
Amanda Cachia, Dunlop Art Gallery,
Regina Public Library
Joanne Havelock, Prairie Women's
Health Centre of Excellence, Regina
Stacey Guy, Advocate, Regina
Diane Martz, Prairie Women's Health
Centre of Excellence, Saskatoon
Bonnie Morton, Regina Anti-Poverty
Ministry
Stacey Mustatia, Regina Work
Preparation Centre
Arlene Scott Stimpson, Regina Work
Preparation Centre