

## IBCR NEWS BRIEF

Welcome to another edition of our informal newsletter, *IBCR NEWS BRIEF*, which is published on an occasional basis to share with you some of the happenings and developments at the IBCR.

These newsletters aim to bring you up to date on our successes, projects, introduce you to some of our collaborators and summarize for you our more important meetings.

We hope that you will once again enjoy this relaxed and easy-to-read bulleting that gives you an open window into the everyday world of the IBCR.

### From indignation to action against child trafficking in Quebec!



A new and very promising project is now in the hands of the IBCR. « **The trafficking of girls: a form of violence within our communities** » is in fact an initiative of the IBCR, with financial support from the Women's Program of *Status of Women Canada*, a federal agency that advances the equality of women.

This two-year-long project consists of implementing a training course about Child Trafficking for the various actors who work directly with young girls who

have been trafficked or at risk.

The IBCR has just launched the program, which will have **a direct impact** on those who work in the field by providing them with relevant and useful tools for their interventions. These tools are adapted to the specific needs of this vulnerable population with the hope of facilitating and accelerating help to trafficked girls. They not only give indicators for identifying young girls affected by trafficking or at risk, but provide the steps to protect them and the means in place to provide psychological and judicial support.

The project is divided into several stages and includes various aspects. For instance, a **discussion group** composed of 21 community groups has been set up. The purpose of the group is to assess the needs of workers in order to make the training course pertinent and informative. **Training sessions** created by the IBCR will then be tested on this representative sample in order to evaluate their real impact and make them as relevant as possible. Simultaneously, the IBCR will be in talks with a **consultative committee**, composed of people and organizations with an expertise in relevant topics (ex. hypersexualism, legal popularization, workers on the ground, etc.) to help shape the content. The IBCR also intends to include the participation of the affected population, so that young girls between 10 and 17 years of age will further inform the elaboration of the training course.

The IBCR intends to close the project on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Universal Children's Day. To mark the occasion, the IBCR will organize a **public awareness event** on child trafficking, which will include a theatrical presentation on prevention and

intervention. Actors will illustrate trafficking situations and invite participants to find appropriate ways to intervene.

Even though child trafficking in Quebec is a clandestine phenomenon, it is now recognized as a real and identifiable problem, and this in turn means that it is now possible to act against it!

The project is already generating a great deal of enthusiasm amongst the organizations involved in the fight against child trafficking!

**Keep an eye on this project...it will have people talking!**