

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“DAD’S MAKE A DIFFERENCE” WORKSHOP  
COMES TO NANAIMO AGAIN – NOVEMBER 7-8

Nanaimo BC – October 22, 2007 – Gardner Wiseheart, Founder and Director of the Dad’s Make a Difference Program in San Angelo, Texas will be presenting a workshop for dads, moms and service providers in Nanaimo on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

The workshop will provide information on the importance of the involvement of fathers in raising healthy children and how fathers can learn to develop better parenting skills in interaction with their children. It will also explore how dads can improve their relationships with their partners or ex-partners, and their extended family.

The Dad’s Make a Difference Workshop will also instruct child development, public health and family support workers in how they can best support dads and their families. It will teach skills, strategies and approaches involved in working with fathers and developing “father-inclusive” services in the community.

“Fathers play a unique and irreplaceable role in the lives of their children,” states Wiseheart, “The best way to help families achieve positive outcomes for children is to engage both parents in the active involvement in their children’s lives, regardless of whether the parents live together or not. Research indicates that children raised without an involved father are more vulnerable socially and economically than other children.”

“Mothers and fathers parent differently,” says Wiseheart, “Both are important to healthy child development and positive outcomes for children. Community agencies have a responsibility to increase the degree and quality of fathers’ involvement through the services they provide.”

For more information about the Dad’s Make a Difference Workshop on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> call the Nanaimo Men’s Resource Centre at 716-1551 or log on to their website at [www.nanaimomen.com](http://www.nanaimomen.com).

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