

# For Immediate Release



## **LOCAL BC ORGANIZATIONS THE FIRST CANADIAN GROUPS TO OBSERVE INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009**

Canada joins a growing number of nations whose men's, women's and father's organizations will officially observe International Men's Day (IMD) on Thursday, November 19th.

IMD in Canada will be celebrated in Nanaimo, BC at the Dads Make a Difference gathering organized by the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre and the Men's Affordable Resources Society of BC (MARS BC). In Vancouver, IMD will be celebrated as part of an ongoing course series for men called *Manology: Exploring 21st Century Masculinity*, led by David Hatfield.

IMD is supported by the United Nations and was founded in 1999 by Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh of Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago, Australia, India, Italy, the U.S.A., Germany, Brazil, South Africa, Ghana, Singapore, the U.K., Malta, Georgia, New Zealand, Moldova, Ireland, Jamaica, and Holland are some of the nations around the globe that are planning activities on International Men's Day 2009.

Founder Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh said, "International Men's Day is about addressing the challenges and problems that men face; improving gender relations between men and women; promoting gender equality, highlighting positive male role models – not just movie stars and athletes – but everyday working class men who are living decent, honest, lives, and creating a safer and better world". The theme for the worldwide observance of International Men's Day 2009 is 'Positive Male Role Models' and the 2010 theme will be 'Unity'.

IMD recognizes that men face a lot of the same problems that women do: emotional and physical stresses and illness, financial hardships, difficulties with relationships and families, as well as domestic violence, workplace harassment and sexual abuse. Speaking on behalf of UNESCO, Ms. Ingeborg Breines, Director of Women and Culture of Peace said, "This is an excellent idea and would give some gender balance." She

added that her organization was looking forward to cooperating with organizers of International Men's Day.

The IMD – Dads Make a Difference gathering in Nanaimo on November 19<sup>th</sup> is at 6pm at the Princess Royal Family Centre, 260 Irwin St., Nanaimo, BC. The Vancouver Manology event will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the Roundhouse Community Centre.

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### **Media Inquiries:**

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### **Background Information:**

A thorough history of the founding of International Men's Day can be found on

Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Men's\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Men's_Day)

### **Additional contacts:**

- Men's Affordable Resources Society of BC (MARS BC) – [www.marsbc.com](http://www.marsbc.com)
- Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre – [www.nanaimomen.com](http://www.nanaimomen.com)
- Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh: +1 868 665 8227: [jtluxing@yahoo.com](mailto:jtluxing@yahoo.com)
- International Men's Day website: [www.internationalmensday.com](http://www.internationalmensday.com)
- Manology website: [www.masculinty21st.wordpress.com](http://www.masculinty21st.wordpress.com)

Participants from *Manology: Exploring 21st Century Masculinity* course open to interviews: Brian Powell- 778-896-0134 or [vancouverrotter@gmail.com](mailto:vancouverrotter@gmail.com) and

- Sequoia Lundy 604-731-4441 or [sequoia@growingyourself.info](mailto:sequoia@growingyourself.info)
- Individuals or organizations that are planning an event to observe IMD can contact Jason Thompson IMD Global Promotions Coordinator to have your details published: [hippolytus101@yahoo.com.au](mailto:hippolytus101@yahoo.com.au)