**Partners and Research Focus**

FIRA is a pan-Canadian alliance of individuals, organizations and institutions dedicated to developing and sharing of knowledge focusing on father involvement. The FIRA community university research program involved 8 universities and 35 community partners across Canada, directed by Kerry Daly and coordinated by Linda Hawkins at the Centre for Families, Work & Well-Being at the University of Guelph. A comprehensive FIRA research program was funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council from 2002 to 2009. Work included collaborating and sharing information with fathers and mothers, academics, social, health and other service providers; educators; employers and the business sector; community, professional and labour groups, government and the media.

**Our research focus:**

1. **Research Clusters** with socially defined subpopulations of fathers to understand the unique conditions in which men father: • fathers of children with special needs • gay fathers • immigrant fathers • Indigenous fathers • new fathers • separated/divorced fathers • young fathers

2. A Canadian Knowledge Base providing a series of analyses, papers and policy roundtables with provincial and federal ministries: • Demographic profiles of fathers (through analysis of Statscan data) • policy reviews (policy papers, inventory of policies affecting fathers and families in Canada)

3. Integrative Analyses focusing on: • father/child relationships • children’s influence on fathers • factors that influence fathers’ levels of involvement • negotiating parenthood with partners

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**Partnership Products**

This partnership was very successful in the broad range of products and impacts generated. Still, the geographical and disciplinary distance among community and university researchers (8 universities, 35 community partners) was very challenging in communicating and connecting complimentary work. Beyond newsletters, emails and web postings, two strategies are presented here to increase attention across the partnership. Below is a representation of the 503 outputs or products generated by this alliance from 2003 to 2009 categorized by:

- **content area of focus** (is this research on how fathers and children interact in families or how community programs for fathers operate?)
- **targeted audience for impact** (is this to inform way Statscan collects data on families or to change how immigrant dads receive services?)

**Why provide a visual of your partnership products?**

- Better understanding across partnerships of the work of others on our team (community and university)
- Increased motivation to report and track our work (compliance with reporting increased dramatically with the use of the chart to the right)
- Greater awareness of the scope, impact and value of partnership rather than individual efforts

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**FIRA**

Father Involvement Research Alliance

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Product Type:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report</th>
<th>Advisory or Consulting Services</th>
<th>Conference Paper or Presentation</th>
<th>Works Published and Accepted for Publication</th>
<th>Media (e.g., interview, magazine article, public lecture)</th>
<th>Thesis or Research Proposal</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>DVD or Film (Creative Work)</th>
<th>Meeting and Networking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Impact:
- Fathers and Families
- Community Organizations and Practice
- Policy or Government
- National or International Connections
- Academic

Project Collaborators Viewing their Work