

## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ANNOUNCEMENT: CANCER PREVENTION FOR ALL WOMEN (C-PAW)**

LAZO, Centretown Community Health Centre, Gentium Consulting, and the Community Health Research Unit are delighted to announce that the Ontario Women's Health Council has **provided funding for a comprehensive two-year lay health promoter demonstration project, to improve cancer screening for women of ethnocultural communities in our region.**

Cervical and breast cancer are significant health problems for ethnocultural minority women in North America, who have higher rates of mortality and lower rates of utilizing screening tests. In fact, the **rate of cancer of the cervix among the immigrant population in Canada is estimated at six times greater than the average.** Newcomer communities often lack knowledge and have limited access to many preventive health services, including cancer screening facilities in Ottawa-Carleton.

The **four community groups working in women's health** developed an innovative and proactive response to this problem, through a new health promotion project called:

**CANCER PREVENTION FOR ALL WOMEN (C-PAW), Building Community Capacity and Equitable Access to Cancer Screening for Ethno-racial minority Women.**

**Lay Health Promoters will be trained and work closely with existing services to increase access to cancer screening and improve preventive health care.** The project will first be implemented by the Hispanic community, and transferred to other ethnocultural groups at the end of two years. Health education and community capacity building are important elements, which will benefit women, their families, and their communities. The **C-PAW** project is an important step towards **building a healthier Ottawa for all women.**

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