

## NEWS BULLETIN

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Monday, April 28, 2003  
For Immediate Release

### **International Day of Families: Celebrate at Community Expo**

Winnipeg C The whole family is invited to celebrate the International Day of Families on **Thursday, May 15 at the St. James Civic Centre, site of *Community Expo: Celebrating Children, Youth, and Families***. Discover the many ways Winnipeg is working to ensure the health and well-being of families, youth, and children and enjoy activities, free goodies and face-painting!

Located within The University of Winnipeg's Institute of Urban Studies, the Winnipeg Site of the Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Centred Prairie Communities is a 'network of networks,' committed to discovering ways to best support children and youth. Comprised of community members and groups, social service agencies, academic researchers, and policy makers in six Canadian Prairie communities, the Centre conducts practical, action-based research on key health and development issues affecting children and youth.

Sponsored by the Centre of Excellence this year, the Community Expo will showcase family resource centres, literacy programs, crisis lines, recreation programs, addictions education programs, employment services, and much more. "Often people with young children don't know where to go when they have an issue," says Anita Friesen, the Centre's Community Research Coordinator. "The Expo is a wonderful way to facilitate a connection between programs and families." The Winnipeg Site is administered by the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg.

Hundreds of groups have joined the initiative, allowing the Centre to develop a diverse representation from Aboriginal, community, academic, and government stakeholders. "The goal is to work with families to promote the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and social development of children and youth," Friesen notes.

From 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., service providers and researchers will have the opportunity to share their ideas and information. The doors will be open to the public from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.; admission is free. The Funzone, reading nook, and face painting will provide entertainment for children of all ages! There will also be door prizes and a Community Café with homemade goodies and light fare (profits from the Café will go to a youth organization).

For more information and presenter registration details please visit [www.uwinnipeg.ca/~ius/coe](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/~ius/coe) or contact Anita Friesen at 982-1152 or [a.friesen@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:a.friesen@uwinnipeg.ca)