



Wednesday June 9th, 2008

MEDIA ADVISORY

Groundbreaking Study Uncovers Need for Safer Shelter Access for Female-to-Male Transgender/Transsexual People

WHAT: Launch of groundbreaking research regarding safe access to Toronto's Shelter system by Female-to-Male (FTM) Transgender/Transsexual people. The study entitled *Invisible Men: FTMs and Homelessness in Toronto* calls upon the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario to provide better funding and resources to support FTMs within the Shelter system who are at-risk of violence, discrimination and marginalization within the system.

Key Findings and Recommendations of the Research will be presented by a panel of experts.

WHO: Phil Brown, General Manager, Shelter Support and Housing Administration
Marua Lawless, Executive Director of the [519 Community Centre](#)
Christina Strang Case Manager at [Fred Victor Centre, Bethlehem United Shelter](#)
Michael Shapcott - Director of Community Engagement at [Wellesley Institute](#)
Community-Based Research Team including members of FTM community

PHOTO OP: Members of FTM community, city officials, community partners, researchers

WHERE: Toronto City Hall, Committee Room #2

WHEN: Friday June 20th, 2008 -11:30am -1pm

WHY: Homeless FTMs experience an unacceptable amount of violence, isolation, stigma and discrimination within a system that is intended to support all communities at-risk. Further, many FTMs report being unsafe in men's shelters, and unwelcome in women's shelters. The launch of the study will provide recommendations to improve safer access to the city's shelters.

-30-

The 519 Church Street Community Centre

The 519 is a meeting place and focal point for its diverse downtown communities. Within a supportive environment, it responds to the needs of the local neighbourhood and the broader LGBT communities by supplying resources and opportunities to foster self-determination, civic engagement and community participation.

Contact:
Michael Shapcott
Wellesley Institute
416 972 1010 x. 231