

Women, Equity and Cities – Some Key Resources

- Toronto Women's Call to Action (TWCA) and the National Network on Environments and Women's Health (NNEWH) produce background papers for NNEWH's March 2005 workshop entitled "Building Healthy Cities for Canadian Women: A National Consultation". All of the papers are available at <http://www.twca.ca/documents.htm>
 - **Gendered Cities: Built and Physical Environments**
Provides a description of how the built and physical environment of cities are gendered and can impact women's opportunities and health.
 - **Gender Mainstreaming in Local Governments**
Provides an explanation of the concept of gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting in local governments as tools of good governance.
 - **Racialized and Immigrant Women in Cities**
Provides an overview of issues affecting racialized and immigrant women.
 - **Women's Poverty in Cities**
Provides an overview of issues affecting women contending with poverty in urban environments.
 - **Women with Disabilities in the Urban Environment**
Provides an overview of health issues affecting women with disabilities.

- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) recently completed a national project on increasing the participation of women in municipal decision making.
 - Final report: **Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Decision-making Processes: Strategies for More Inclusive Canadian Communities**
<http://www.fcm.ca/english/policy/increase.pdf>
 - Resource kit: **Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Decision-making Processes: Strategies for More Inclusive Canadian Communities - A Resource Kit**
<http://www.fcm.ca/english/policy/toolkit.pdf>

- The FCM recently partnered with the City of Montreal's *Femmes et ville* Program to produce a resource that municipal governments can use to assess the impact of all their decisions on the quality of life of women, and adjust their actions accordingly:
 - **A City Tailored to Women: The Role of Local Governments in Achieving Gender Equality.**
http://www.femmesetvilles.org/pdf-general/FCM_city_tailored_eng.pdf

- The International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) (now United Cities and Local Governments) launched the **Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government** in 1998, which has been ratified in over 28 countries, including 23 national associations who have ratified on behalf of all their member local governments. The Declaration's underlying principle is that gender equality is good for women, but that it is also good for men and for local government. Increasing the number of women in local government, and keeping the needs of women in mind when developing policies and services, is essential to achieving social and economic goals: <http://www.iula.org/>

- The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) and the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) have released a report that concludes that if women are to be equal benefactors of federal budget surpluses, the federal government must stop ignoring its domestic and international commitments to undertake gender budget analysis in Canada.
 - **Gender Budget Initiatives: Why They Matter in Canada**
http://www.policyalternatives.ca/documents/National_Office_Pubs/2005/afb2006_techpaper1_gender_budget_initiatives.pdf
- Cities such as London, UK, are making substantial progress on gender equity. Their work on equalities also focuses on racialized, ethnic, refugee, queer communities, etc. The Greater London Authority (GLA) is mandated under the *Greater London Authority Act 1999* to systematically work towards the “equality of opportunity” in its functions and in the formulation of policies and proposals included in any of its strategies. The GLA’s gender equality policy, the Gender Equality Scheme, identifies 15 specific expected outcomes, 10 high level gender equality priorities, an action plan, and information about consultation, impact assessment and monitoring.
 - **Greater London Authority Gender Equality Scheme March 2003 (gender equity policy & action plan)**
<http://www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/women/gender-equal03.pdf>
 - **Gender Equality Scheme Review 2003-04 (progress report)**
http://www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/women/ges_review.pdf
- The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) established a methodology towards achieving the “equality town”. This virtual town will be used as a model enabling local governments to make improvements in terms of gender equality.
 - **The Town for Equality: A Methodology and Good Practices for Equal Opportunities Between Women and Men**
http://www.ccre.org/bases/T_599_26_3524.pdf
- Toronto-based Women & Environments International (WEI) magazine recently produced an issue that allows readers to experience cities through women’s perspectives from Bolivia to Britain and from Canada to Cuba. It includes stories, accounts, and analyses of how cities around the world are failing and succeeding to meet women’s needs and how women have come together to change their lives in their cities. Content areas include: Housing, Urban Design and Architecture, Planning and Safety, Transportation, Governance, and Sustainability.
 - **Women & Environments International magazine “Cities for Women” No. 62/63 – Spring/Summer 2004**
<http://www.weimag.com>

Web Sites in Spanish

Mujer y Generos, (Woman and Genders) Bogota, Colombia
<http://www.bogota.gov.co/equidad/equidad.php>

Instituto Municipal de las Mujeres en Guadalajara, Mexico
Women’s Municipal Institute of Guadalajara
<http://carreragdlnmujer.com/>