

## Community Health Advocates Project

In 1998, the Vancouver Women's Health Collective (VWHC) began offering women training under its Community Health Advocate (CHA) project. In 2002/2001 the project shifted from training advocates to offering women Patient's Rights workshop. And provided 12 workshops in the Vancouver/Richmond region. During the 2001/2002 fiscal year the CHA project completed its Information Kit for workshop participants and offered workshops throughout the Lower Mainland. The CHA project translated the VWHC's Menopause Kit into written Chinese. The Community Hosts for this fiscal year were:

- Women of the Downtown Eastside – Patient's Rights workshop in partnership with Sheree Hudson of the V/RHB (now the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority)
- The Centre, Queer Women's Health Series – Patient's Rights workshop -- April 26, 2001
- Traditions Program – Burnaby Family Life Institute – Patient's Rights workshop -- May 10, 2001
- Raycam Community Centre – Patient's Rights workshop -- May 17, 2001 –
- Leads Group II, Pacific Immigration Resource Society (PIRS)– Patient's Rights workshop -- October 10, 2001
- Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services – Patient's Rights Workshop -- October 31, 2001
- Vietnamese Women, Multilingual Orientation Services Association for Immigrant Communities (MOSAIC)– Patient's Rights workshop -- November 5, 2001
- Sex trade workers, Prostitution Alternatives Counselling Education (PACE)– Patient's Rights workshop -- November 8, 2001
- Leads Group III, Pacific Immigration Resources Society (PIRS) – Patient's Rights workshop – November 15, 2001
- Youth and Adults, Gathering Place Education Centre – Patient's Rights workshop --November 26, 2001
- Gab Youth Services, The Centre – Patient's Rights workshop – December 11, 2001
- Youth, Byng Satellite School – Patient's Rights workshop – December 13, 2001
- Douglas College – Women's Centre – January 23 2002
- Burnaby Family Life Institute – Traditions Program – February 21, 2002

- Raycam Community Centre – ESL program – February 26, 2002
- Pacific Immigration Resource Society – Leads Group – March 7, 2002

Workshop participants learn about their right to access safe, respectful, and appropriate health care. The workshop includes a range of information including: an introduction to the services provided at the VWHC; self advocacy skills; things to think about when choosing a doctor; informed consent; commonly asked doctor's questions; routine exams; self-care; and resources and information sharing amongst workshop participants.

The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (formally the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board) provided basic funding for the CHA project and the Vancouver Foundation matched the health board funding for CHA until the end of December 2001. During the 2001 summer season a student did research for the CHA project.