



WOMEN'S HEALTH IN WOMEN'S HANDS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

RESEARCH PROJECT OVERVIEW

Title:	WOMEN'S HIV EMPOWERMENT THROUGH LIFE TOOLS FOR HEALTH (<i>WHEALTH</i>)
Principal Investigator(s):	Dr A Carvalho, Louise Binder
Co-Investigator(s):	Kara Gillies, Wangari Esther Tharao, Pat O'Campo, Shari Margolese
Project Duration/ Funding:	OHTN, CIHR 2007 - 2012

Project Summary:

The purpose of the study is to understand the ethical, cultural, and social aspects of infant feeding in the era of HIV among women who have migrated to Canada from HIV endemic countries. This is a CBR project which involves a community-university partnerships; capacity of building/training of members of various CBAOs and direct involvement of representatives from four CBAOs and their clients.

The pilot research study will explore HIV-positive women immigrants' experiences with an array of issues that affect breastfeeding, including ethics, culture, the immigration process, program access or barriers to service, and some of the legal and moral implications that significantly impact the politics and practice of breastfeeding.

The project will also determine the feasibility of CBR methods for a larger Ontario-wide project, which will include collection of breast milk from this population for an immunological study on breast fluids immunity markers.