

WEDGE The Provisioning Research Summary and Preliminary Resume

Compiled By Marge Reitsma- Street, Catherine van Mossel, Crystal Gartside and Donna Barker, Fall 2006

We look in a new way at the work women do. We believe that women's work cannot be neatly divided into categories of paid and unpaid work. They work in the arenas of family, employment and the community in complex and overlapping ways. We are trying out the concept of **provisioning** to describe the work that women do. By provisioning we mean all the activities that women do to provide the necessities of life for all those they are responsible for inside and outside the home. This research project examines the patterns of provisioning relationships and activities that women do in their households, communities and jobs.

We are especially interested in the provisioning work that women do in the **community**. We know less about this area of women's work than we do about their work in the family and paid employment. We are interviewing women who are part of groups that define themselves as low income, immigrant, ethno-racial, youth or older. Such women are often at the mercy of government programs and policies, social service providers, employers, and businesses that have restrictions and regulations about how to access them, when and how often. Government, business and social programs, while helping, can add work to women's lives or give help that is not useful. In looking at women's community work, we want to find out how government policies and programs and the organizations that affect women's lives can be changed to better support the provisioning work that women do.

The two objectives for the project are: (1) To find new ways to understand the endless amount of work that women do to maintain the lives of those they feel responsible for, especially the work they do in the community. (2) Two. To

develop better social practices, programs and policies that make it easier for women to provide for others without sacrificing their own well-being.

There are six research sites, each with community advisories. The sites and researchers are:

▶ Stephanie Baker Collins, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, York University: a food cooperative in southern Ontario.

▶ Judy Cerny, Ph.D. candidate in Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto: a tenants' group in a social urban housing complex.

▶ Sheila Neysmith, DSW, Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, a community of older age urban dwellers.

▶ Elaine Porter, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Laurentian University: a community resource centre in northern Ontario.

▶ Marge Reitsma-Street, Ph.D. Professor and Principal Investigator, Studies in Policy and Practice, Faculty of Human and Social Development, University of Victoria: an employment program for abused women.

▶ Sandra Tam, Ph.D. candidate in Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto: an employment resource centre in an urban community of young immigrant women.

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Marge Reitsma-Street (hat on the left), Sandra Tam, Sheila Neysmith, Stephanie Baker Collins, Judy Cerny and Elaine Porter.

I. Refereed Publications

- 2006 Neysmith, S., Reitsma-Street, M., Baker Collins, S. and Porter, E. Provisioning: Thinking about all of women's work. *Canadian Women's Studies: An Introductory Reader Second Edition*. Edited by Andrea Medovarski and Brenda Cranney. Inanna Publications and Education Inc. (Reprint of journal article).
- 2005 Neysmith, S., Reitsma-Street, M., Baker Collins, S., & Porter, E. Provisioning: Thinking about all of women's work. *Canadian Women's Studies*. Vol. 23 (3/4) 192-198.
- 2005 Neysmith, S. & Reitsma-Street, M. "Provisioning: Conceptualizing the work of women for 21st century social policy." *Women's Studies International Forum*. Vol. 28 381– 391.
- 2004 Aronson, Jane., Denton, M., and Zeytinoglu, I. Market-modeled home care in Ontario: Deteriorating working conditions and dwindling community capacity. *Canadian Public Policy*. Vol. 30 (1): 111-125.

II. Academic Conference Papers

- 2006 Sandra Tam. "Caregiver or Worker: Young Women's Contradictory Experiences of Provisioning." *Society for the Study of Social Problems Conference*. Montreal. August 10.

- 2006 Sheila Neysmith, Stephanie Baker- Collins, Elaine Porter, Marge Reitsma-Street. The Provisioning Responsibilities of Older Women. *8th Global Conference, The International Federation of Ageing (IFA)*, Copenhagen, Denmark. May 30 - June 2.
- 2006 Elaine Porter. "Women's provisioning in marginalized communities: It takes a child care centre to raise a village". *Association for Research on Mothering Conference*. York University. Toronto, ON. May 30.
- 2006 Stephanie Baker Collins "Provisioning: Another way to think of all of women's work." *Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work Conference*. York University. Toronto, ON. June 1.
- 2006 Sandra Tam. "Provisioning of young women participants in housing, employment and teen mothers programs". *Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work Conference*. York University. Toronto, ON. June 1.
- 2006 Judy Cerny. "Low-income women in tenant association of a public housing complex and their approach to provisioning". *Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work Conference*. York University. Toronto, ON. June 1.
- 2006 Corrine Lowen and Marge Reitsma-Street "Impact of performance-based funding on provisioning an employability program for women who experienced abuse". *Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work Conference*. York University. Toronto, ON. June 1.
- 2005 Marge Reitsma-Street, Stephanie Baker-Collins, Elaine Porter & Sheila Neysmith. "All the work women do: Imagining household and collective provisioning." *Imagining Public Policy to Meet Women's Economic Security Needs*. Simon Fraser University. Vancouver, BC. October 14.
- Revised text and photos available on www.esp.ca and www.uvic.ca/spp
- 2005 Stephanie Baker Collins, Elaine Porter, Marge Reitsma-Street, & Sheila Neysmith "The complex web of household provisioning: Stories of food coop members." *Imagining Public Policy to Meet Women's Economic Security Needs*. Simon Fraser University. October 14.

- 2005 Elaine Porter, Marge Reitsma-Street, Stephanie Baker Collins and Sheila Neysmith "Collective provisioning: Contributions of community resource centres." *Imagining Public Policy to Meet Women's Economic Security Needs*. Simon Fraser University. October 4.
- 2005 Sandra Tam. "Young women's provisioning: Implications for citizenship," *Graduate Collaborative Program in Women's Studies Student Symposium: Citizenship, Space, Subjectivity*. University of Toronto, Toronto, ON. December 17.
- 2005 Sheila Neysmith, Stephanie Baker Collins, Elaine Porter & Marge Reitsma-Street.. "Imagining women, provisioning and community in a provident state. *Imagining Public Policy to Meet Women's Economic Security Needs Conference*. Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC. October 13-15.
- 2004 Marge Reitsma-Street, Stephanie Baker Collins, Sheila Neysmith and Elaine Porter. "Regulating reciprocity in multi-site collaborative community research on women and provisioning". *Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work Annual Conference*. Winnipeg, MN. June 1.
- 2005 Sandra Tam. "Between paid work and caregiving: Young women provision". *National Women Studies Association Conference: Locating Women's Studies: Formations of Power and Resistance*. Poster Presentation. Oakland, CA. June 15-18.
- 2004 Marge Reitsma-Street, Sheila Neysmith Stephanie Baker Collins and Elaine Porter. "Redefining boundaries and crossing borders: Implications of women's provisioning work in community." *Global Social Work Congress: Reclaiming Civil Society*. Adelaide, Australia. October 3.
- 2005 Stephanie Baker Collins, Elaine Porter, Marge Reitsma-Street, & Sheila Neysmith. "It's the little things that count: Women provisioning to sustain life". *Canadian Social Welfare Policy Conference*. University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB. June 17.
- 2004 Marge Reitsma-Street, Sheila Neysmith, Stephanie Baker Collins and Elaine Porter. "Redefining boundaries and crossing borders: Implications of women's provisioning work in community." *Mobile Boundaries/Rigid Worlds as the Contemporary paradox: Second Annual Conference of the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion*. Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. September 27.
- 2005 Sheila Neysmith, Jane Aronson, Stephanie Baker Collins, Elaine Porter, Marge Reitsma-Street. "Shifting the boundaries or policing the borders". *1st International Conference of Community, Work and Family*. Manchester Metropolitan University. Manchester, U.K. March 16-18.
- 2003 Marge Reitsma-Street and Sheila Neysmith. "Provisioning: The practical and strategic work of women and their communities in the new economy". *11th Biennial Canadian Social Welfare Policy Conference*. Ottawa, ON. June 16.
- 2005 Stephanie Baker Collins. "Making a difference: Contributions of social work educators/activists to community based research". *Congress of the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work*. King's University College at Western University. London, ON. May 30.
- III. Reports, professional documents, popular articles, media submissions, electronic publications**
- 2006 Sandra Tam. "*Fewer Resources to Draw Upon: in Response to Work and Life out of Balance, Opinion Column*" Letter to the Editor. Toronto Star. August 7.
- 2005 S. Baker Collins, A. High, S. Gill & S. Bernard. "Building skills and understanding barriers: A community based survey of Ontario works recipients". Panel presentation including the primary investigator, project coordinator, an interviewer and an interviewee. *2005 OMSSA Learning Symposium*. Niagara Falls, ON. June 2.
- 2006 Catherine van Mossel and Silvia Vilches. "Wedge Research Project". *Purple Prose*. Newsletter of the Faculty of Women's Caucus of the University of Victoria. Volume 4 (3). p. 9.
- 2006 Crystal Gartside and Catherine van Mossel. Research Symposium: Provisioning, Work, and Communities. *The Ring*. University of Victoria, Victoria, BC. March.
- 2006 Sandra Tam. "*Young women provision: A research report*". Agency report for YWCA Toronto, ON. Spring. (14 pages).

- 2005 Sandra Tam. *Caregiver or worker: Young women's contradictory experiences of provisioning*. October. (25 pages). University of Toronto. Toronto, ON.
- 2005 Corrine Lowen. *Performance-based funding: Impacts on the mission, policies and practices of a women's community organization in a Western Canadian city*. Report for Bridges for Women Society Victoria. Victoria, BC.
- 2005 Silvia Vilches. "Researcher Reflections on a Day of Protest". *The Bridge*. A Magazine of the Bridges for Women Society. Volume 13 (3) December.
- 2005 Sandra Tam. "Women Provisioning Community". In *Women and Environments International Magazine*. Vol. 66/67. "In the Field" Spring/Summer 2005. pp. 34-36.
- 2005 Catherine van Mossel and Marge Reitsma-Street. *The provisioning of a women's organisation: Focus group findings of the provisioning project in a Western Canadian city*. (26 pages). University of Victoria, Victoria, BC. Report for the Bridges for Women Society.
- 2005 Better Beginnings, Better Future. "The Better Beginnings, Better Futures Prevention Project in Sudbury". Video Produced by BBBF Sudbury with assistance of the Wedge Provisioning Research Project and SSHRC, Sudbury Ontario June.
- 2005 Marge Reitsma-Street. "Women, provisioning and community. *Women & Environments International Magazine*. Vol. 66/67 Spring/Summer 2005. p. 45.
- 2004 Elaine Porter. *The Staff of Life*. Report on WEDGE Pilot Project with the Better Beginnings-Better Futures Community. Sudbury, ON. Spring. (8 pages).
- 2004 Sheila Neysmith. "Provisions for the new economy: Recognizing women's unpaid community work". In *Reach* Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. Toronto, ON. P. 6.
- 2004 Marge Reitsma-Street. "*The Wedge Provisioning Research Project Information Sheet*". Fall. University of Victoria, Victoria, BC.
- 2004 Marge Reitsma-Street. *The provisioning of women: A Summary*. University of Victoria, Victoria, BC.
- 2004 Marge Reitsma-Street. *The provisioning of women: Findings of the pilot provisioning project in a western Canadian city*. Report for Bridges for Women Society of Victoria. (31 pages). University of Victoria, Victoria, BC.
- 2004 Arlene Wells. "Update on the Wedge Provisioning Project". *The Bridge*. A Magazine of the Bridges for Women Society. Volume 12. Victoria, BC. P.3.
- 2004 Stephanie Baker Collins for the Social Assistance Advisory Committee. "*Building skills and understanding barriers: Community based survey of Ontario works recipients*." Regional Municipality of Niagara.
- 2003 Jane Aronson, Margaret Denton, & Isik Zeytingolu. "*I really can't afford to stay in home care: A follow-up study of Hamilton home support workers laid off in 2002*." Report for the Hamilton VHA Health and Home Support Services Board and members.
- 2003 Silvia Vilches. "Women on the Edge (WEDGE)" *The Bridge*. A Magazine of the Bridges for Women Society. Volume 11 (2), 2-3. Victoria, BC.
- Undated Sandra Tam. "*Understanding Young Women's Provisioning: The Social Organization of Youth Employment*." Pamphlet
- IV. Papers to Academic, Professional and Community Audiences**
- 2006 Stephanie Baker-Collins, *Women's Provisioning Work Counting the Cost for Women Living on Low Income*. Presentation to the Faculty Research Seminar at the School of Social Work, York University. October 3, 2006.
- 2006 Marge Reitsma-Street "From AntiViolence to ProVisioning: Supporting Women's Organisations in the 21st Century" Keynote Annual General Meeting, Bridges Society for Women, Victoria, B.C. September 28.
- 2006 Marge Reitsma-Street, Elaine Porter, Sheila Neysmith and Stephanie Baker-Collins. "The Provisioning of Women's Groups in Neo-Liberal Regimes". Fourth Draft Presented at the *Wedge Provisioning Research Symposium*. University of Toronto. August 1.

- 2006 Marge Reitsma-Street, Elaine Porter, Sheila Neysmith and Stephanie Baker-Collins. *"The Provisioning of Women's Groups in Neo-Liberal Regimes"*. Fourth Draft Presented at the *Wedge Provisioning Research Symposium*. University of Toronto. August 1.
- 2006 Stephanie Baker-Collins, Sheila Neysmith, Marge Reitsma-Street and Elaine Porter. "Women's Provisioning Work: Counting the cost for Women Living on Low Income". Presented at the *Wedge Provisioning Research Symposium*. University of Toronto. August 1.
- 2006 Sheila Neysmith, Marge Reitsma-Street, Stephanie Baker-Collins, Elaine Porter, and Sandra Tam. "Relationships of Responsibility: Mapping the Contours of Women's Work". Presented at the *Wedge Provisioning Research Symposium*. University of Toronto. August 1.
- 2006 Elaine Porter, Marge Reitsma-Street, Sheila Neysmith and Stephanie Baker-Collins. "It Takes a Day Care Centre to Raise a Village". Presented at the *Wedge Provisioning Research Symposium*. University of Toronto. August 1.
- 2006 Sandra Tam. *"Caregiver or Worker: Young Women's Contradictory Experiences of Provisioning"*. Presented at the *Wedge Provisioning Research Symposium*. University of Toronto. August 1.
- 2006 Sheila Neysmith. *"Older Women's Responsibilities."* Older Women's Network Forum. Toronto. August 2.
- 2006 Marge Reitsma-Street and Wedge Research Team. *"Women, Provisioning and Community Research Project in Three Acts."* Older Women's Network Forum. Toronto. August 2.
- 2006 *Research Symposium: Provisioning, Work, and Communities*. "Provisioning: Conceptualising the work of individual women and groups of women." University of Victoria, Victoria, BC. Presenters: Marge Reitsma-Street and Catherine van Mossel. March 17.
- 2006 *Research Symposium: Provisioning, Work, and Communities*. *"Performance-based funding: Impacts on the mission, policies and practices of a women's community organization in a western Canadian city."* University of Victoria, Victoria, BC. Presenter: Corrine Lowen. March 17.
- 2006 Presentation for PhD Student Association, Colloquial Series, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON. Faculty of Social Work: *"Re-visioning Youth 'At Risk': Young Women's Perspectives"*. April 3. Presenter: Sandra Tam.
- 2006 "Performance-Based Funding". Stopping the Violence Branch, Ministry of Community Services and Minister Responsible for Seniors' and Women's Issues. Presenter: Corrine Lowen. May.
- 2005 Community Forum: Panel Presentation sponsored by the Social Assistance Reform Committee Niagara at Regional Headquarters. *"Findings and Recommendations of the research project are presented to the community"*. April 27. Presenters: Stephanie Baker Collins and S. Vendetti.
- 2005 Address to Older Women's Network Annual General Meeting, Toronto, ON. *"Older Women: Centre Stage"*. Presenter: Sheila Neysmith. June.
- 2005 Human & Social Development Graduate Symposium. *"Performance-based funding: Impacts on the mission, policies and practices of a women's community organization in a western Canadian city."* University of Victoria, Victoria, BC. Presenter: Corinne Lowen. November.
- 2005 Address to Bridges for Women Society Annual General Meeting, Victoria, BC. *"Can Community Groups Help Women Develop Alternatives."* Presenter: Sheila Neysmith, October.
- 2005 Research Symposium Wedge Research Project: Women, Provisioning, and Communities. *"All the work women do: Imagining household and collective provisioning."* University of Victoria, Victoria, BC. Presenter: Marge Reitsma-Street. October 17.
- 2005 *Research Symposium Wedge Research Project: Women, Provisioning, and Communities*. "Provisioning of a women's organization." University of Victoria, Victoria, BC. Presenters: Catherine van Mossel and Marge Reitsma-Street. October 17.
- 2005 Research Symposium Wedge Research Project: Women, Provisioning, and Communities. *"Performance-based funding: Impacts on the mission, policies and practices of a women's community organization."* University of Victoria, Victoria, BC. Presenters: Corrine Lowen and member of Bridges for Women Society Board of Directors. October 17.

2005 Research Symposium Wedge Research Project: Women, Provisioning, and Communities. *“Provisioning polices of a provident state.”* University of Victoria, Victoria, BC. Presenter: Sheila Neysmith. October.

2005 Address to Older Women’s Network Annual General Meeting, Peterborough, ON. *“Security and Justice for Older Women”*. Presenter: Sheila Neysmith. October.

2005 Presentation and Skit to the Better Beginnings, Better Futures Community Resource Centre Public Forum. *“Preliminary results of the Provisioning Project”*, Sudbury, ON. Panel Members: Marge Reitsma-Street, Stephanie Baker Collins, Judy Cerny, Sandra Tam, Elaine Porter, and Sheila Neysmith. July.

2004 Formal presentation of completed report to the Community Services Committee of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Regional Headquarters. December 6. Presenter: Stephanie Baker Collins.

V. Submitted Publications

2006 (Under revision) Baker Collins, S. “Women's provisioning work: Counting the cost for women living on low income”. *Gender and Society*.

2006 (Under review). Neysmith, S., Baker Collins S., Porter,E., and Reitsma- Street, M. Women need a “Provident” State.



Wedge Research Team Summer 2006

From Top Left: Sheila Neysmith, Elaine Porter, Sandra Tam

Middle Left: Marge Reitsma-Street with Mario Liegghio middle right

From Kneeling Left: Catherine van Mossel, Crystal Gartside, Stephanie Baker Collins,

Judy Cerny. Front Oxana Mian Photo by Michael Milner