

City of London, ON

2010 CAMA Education Award

(Population over 20,000)

"I Step Forward to End Violence and Abuse in My Community, Workplace and at Home"

As part of its strategic priority of building a more supportive workplace for its employees, the City of London partnered with the London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse (LCCEWA) Advocacy and Communications Committee to develop a new and innovative staff training program.

The *"I Step Forward to End Violence and Abuse in My Community, Workplace and at Home"* is believed to be the first of its kind in Canada, where a workplace took a leadership role in shifting a workplace culture with the intent of beginning a shift in a community's culture.

The interactive program reflects some of society's most important issues, in particular fostering healthy communities through healthy workplaces and addressing woman abuse, family violence and sexual violence. It is part of an overall initiative called "Standing Together – Employees Caring for Employees."

The training program was launched for civic management employees in April 2010, and will be rolled out to all City staff over the next year and a half, beginning this fall. The Program also supports several local awareness initiatives introduced by the Mayor's Task Force to End Woman Abuse since 2006.

London Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best believes that creating a safe environment for employees and citizens is paramount. The *"I Step Forward"* program has proven to be an effective and transportable way to make positive change a reality.