



# POWER OF ONE Women's Economic Empowerment Catalyst for Global Social Change

15<sup>th</sup> APEC Women Leaders Network Meeting September 19-21, 2010 - Tokyo, Japan

Almas Jiwani
President / CEO – Frontier Canada Inc
President – UNIFEM (Part of UN) Canada

#### Empowerment is about women...



- Pursuing their own goals
- •Living according to their own values
- Developing self reliance
- Making choices
- •Influencing decisions that affect their lives

### What difference can we as women make?



- •In history the number "one" has been important.
- Lydia Taft
- Emily Murphy

### The Formidable Glass Ceiling: Women's Economic Empowerment



- Explore avenues to break the glass ceiling.
- Broken by thousands of tiny cracks.
- •the more successes, the faster the ceiling will disappear.
- First step- identify the sources of disempowerment in their lives.

### Hurdles to Women's Economic Empowerment



Social-dependency on male family member

Political-male-biased laws and policies

Economic-patrilineal systems of inheritance!

#### 1,500 companies surveyed.....



- Fewer than 1/3 had even one women in top management
- Only 9% of top management are women
- Only 2.5% of companies run by women

### Strategies for Women's Economic Empowerment

Increasing her productivity in the home and/or work place.

Increasing the economic participation of women.

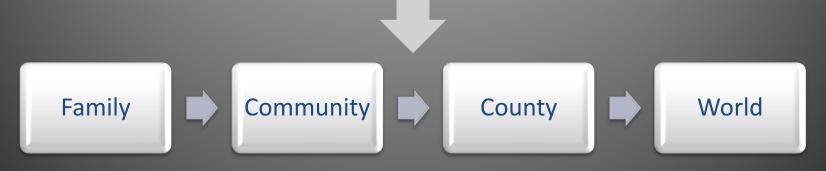
By acting as a mentor we become enactors of

change



#### Logic Model

#### Investment in Women



When a woman has economic security, her family has economic

security...

When a family has economic security, a community has economic security...

When a community has economic security, a country has economic security...

When countries are economically secure, the world is economically secure...

### Global Opportunities for Women's Economic Empowerment



- How can we as women have an impact on economic empowerment at an international level?
- we have to innovate and expand our horizons to allow women to engage in capacity building.

#### The World Bank Group Gender Action Plan (2007-2010)



Duration

and Budget:

US\$30.2 million over 4 years

Rationale:

Women will benefit from their economic empowerment, but so, too, will society as a

whole.

Focus:

Economic sectors: infrastructure,

agriculture; and finance.

## The Power of One Call to Action!



- We have to know our rights and our responsibilities
- part of our life philosophy
- unleash the power of a single woman

That is the Power of One!
Go out there: JOIN IN,
REACH OUT, CHANGE LIVES

### Any Questions?



Together...we can make a difference!