



## **School Health Symposia and Conference 2008**

April 20-23, 2008

Sheraton Four Points Hotel and Conference Centre, Ottawa-Gatineau

### **2008 brings more for everyone, while still being focused and practical.**

The fourth annual school health conference will combine a series of pre-conference symposia on selected health/social issues. The common elements of a comprehensive approach to school health promotion will be left for the conference program. As a result, the events will offer something for all members of Canada's growing school health community.

The pre-conference symposia will bring together local agency/school board practitioners with researchers, experts, professional associations, federal/provincial/territorial officials and national non-governmental organizations. These events will be a key part of several "communities of practice" on specific topics that have been established through the Canadian School Health Knowledge Network. These communities or mini-networks are led by national organizations and individuals. These communities have planned webinars, are contributing to wiki-toolboxes of resources and are working on other activities or joint projects.

The CSH Knowledge Network is a broad array of organizations freely exchanging school health information through a variety of sponsored activities while also offering several specific value-added services for an annual membership fee.

### **Pre-conference Symposia (April 20-21)**

The eight pre-conference symposia will be held on Sunday evening April 20 and all day Monday April 21, 2008. These hands-on sessions will:

- Review the Canadian state of the art and science so that all participants have a better overview of trends, emerging issues and new resources
- Focus on specific hot issues or aspects related to their respective community of practice
- Work through an evidence-based framework for improving practice in their topic area
- Discuss potential joint activities or exchanges that will help all participants learn from each other throughout the next year

The eight symposia will cover these broad topics:

- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Substance Abuse
- Sexual Health
- Disadvantaged schools/communities
- Aboriginal School Health
- Mental Health
- Safe & Caring Schools

(Note: Additional symposia topics will be considered if we can secure volunteer leaders and resources to cover venue costs.)

### **The School Health Conference (April 21-23)**

The conference component will start on Monday evening and will bring together all of the symposia participants as well as an extensive list of federal and national resources, research, demonstration projects and more. Challenges and effective strategies common to all school health programs and strategies will be examined at the conference. These include:

- **Engaging and supporting educators in school health promotion programs.**  
These sessions will examine linkages between health and educational achievement, new approaches to respecting school priority mandates on achievement as well as their constraints, integrating health promotion plans with school improvement plans and more.
- **Coordinating school health policies, programs and services**  
These sessions will identify how coordination can be done effectively at the provincial, local agency and school level through formal and informal means. Applied research studies, practical tips, strategic considerations and success stories will be highlighted.
- **School health literacy/health education and health careers**  
A national report, position paper, evaluation studies and examples of provincial and local programs will be the focus of sessions that will help participants to select and implement more effective educational curricula and programs. Connections to the current priority being placed on literacy in education systems will be made.
- **School health assessments, planning and indicators**  
A series of sessions will report on self-assessment tools, effective planning processes that consider local context and system capacity and options and appropriate indicators to monitor program capacity, health gains and educational benefits.

### **Canadian School Health Knowledge Network Membership Included in Conference**

The conference fee will include an annual membership in the Canadian School Health Knowledge Network. This membership provides access to several value added services with several sponsored and free activities provided.

Services undertaken within the CSH Knowledge Network at no charge include:

- Publication of a teachers magazine sent to all schools in Canada
- Publication of a School Health Insert in the Canadian Journal of Public Health
- Organization of over 40 webinars on selected topics (Small fee included if there is no membership)
- Facilitation of national NGO and researcher networks
- Hosting of a School Health Library/Documentation Centre (WHO Centre)
- Facilitation of a network of local school board/agency contacts

The value added services for an annual membership (\$200 single access or \$300 multiple access) in the Knowledge Network include:

- Free access to all webinars (single or multiple access)
- Access to selected school health bibliography (with web links)
- Access to an analytical blog (School Health Insider)
- Contact with over 1500 School Health practitioners
- Reduced School Health Conference fees (Upon renewal of annual membership)

**2008 Conference Program Structure**

Monday Evening April 21, 2007	Keynote Speaker:  Brief Reports from Symposia An interactive and social format for reporting on the deliberations held in each of the symposia will be used to enable all participants to learn about the pre-conference events and opportunities for participation in those communities of practice in 2008-09)
Tuesday April 22, 2007  Morning Sessions       Afternoon sessions	Educators tell us how  A panel of educators will tell us how to respect, engage and support the education system mandates, pre-occupations and constraints. This will be followed by hands-on examples of successful and sustainable innovations and strategies.  Coordinating multiple programs and services  Research shows that coordination of various programs is the key to success but this is very challenging. The coordination work being done at the provincial level, inter-agency level and school level will be examined through case studies and hands-on discussions. Consideration will also be given to the job descriptions and new skills/knowledge required of people in these critical change agent positions.
Wednesday April 23  Morning Sessions       Afternoon sessions	School health literacy, education and career preparation  These sessions will examine the implications of a Canadian report on health literacy, learn more about integrating health in the education system planning for basic literacy and look at comparative models of curricula and approaches  Reports on School Health Capacity and Indicators These sessions will highlight international examples of assessment and monitoring in school health as well as a variety of tools that can be used by schools, agencies and school boards.