



Schools for All: Putting the Pieces Together to Alleviate Disadvantage

April 21 (evening) to April 23, 2010, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Dartmouth, NS

The sixth annual school health conference is being organized by the Canadian Association for School Health (CASH) in partnership with the Canadian Association for Community Education (CACE). The conference is both a continuation of their joint efforts to share better practices in supporting schools disadvantaged communities through a Community of Practice but also to influence an international, policy-oriented agenda that addresses equity issues that will be discussed at an international symposium in Geneva in July 2010.

Pre-Conference Activities

- Pre-conference and Post Conference Webinars will be part of your conference registration package. These webinars are leading up to an International symposium on health, equity and sustainability being held in Geneva. The first will be held on March 17, 2010 and will address how schools can alleviate disadvantage.
- April 21, 2010 An invitational policy & research meeting will be held to discuss effective community and school programs and comprehensive approaches to alleviate disadvantages.

Schools for All Conference (April 21-23)

Wednesday April 21, 2010

5:30 7:00
Keynote
Presentation

Welcome Reception and Keynote Speaker

- Doug Gleddes, Director, EverActive Schools, Edmonton, Alberta

An informal reception and speaker will start the conference with a overview of the issues and programs being discussed over the next two days. Doug Gleddes will discuss implementation of school health and community school programs rural and aboriginal school districts and schools.

Thursday, April 22

8:00 – 8:30

Coffee, tea, juices

8:30 –9:30
Keynote
Presentations

Voices & Stories on Why Schools Matter

- Annie Kidder, People for Education, Ontario
- Paul Ashe, African Canadian Services, Department of Education, Nova Scotia

This session will provide an overview and impetus for the conference. A parent will discuss how

schools can truly support parents who are going through difficult times. The role that schools play as an essential part of a community's social, economic and cultural development will also be presented.

9:30 – 10:30

Panel
Presentation

Putting it Together (Evidence-based Action)

This session will provide an overview of how several community-school approaches (such as Community Schools, Healthy Schools and Safe Schools) can be used to address the needs of disadvantaged communities. The Canadian Association for Community Education and the Canadian Association for School Health have been working through a [national/international Community of Practice](#), and with international experts, to develop a joint statement on how schools can address and alleviate disadvantage. This [Summary Statement on Disadvantaged Schools](#) forms the backdrop to the conference as well as subsequent discussions at an international symposium in Geneva in July.

- Chris Jones, Executive Director, Centre of Excellence on Community Schools Wales, United Kingdom
- TBD, Department of Education, United States
- TBD, Canadian Education Statistics Council/Council of Ministers of Education, Canada

10:30 – 10:45

Health Break

10:45 – 12:15

Concurrent
Workshops

Taking Action: Part One Concurrent Workshops

This and subsequent sets of workshop sessions will provide practical advice and hands-on discussion about specific programs and interventions that can help schools to support and serve their communities more effectively.

- [Reducing Food Insecurity through School Meal Programs](#)
This session will describe how schools can work with their communities to start and sustain school meal programs. Connecting these programs with larger efforts to promote healthy eating at home and school is essential as well. This session will describe how the national Breakfast for Learning program has met this challenge.
- [Building Restorative Justice Strategies that Fit their Communities](#)
Schools need to develop alternatives to rebuild student, parent and staff trust after incidents while still ensuring consequences for anti-social and disruptive behaviours. Community and school engagement in developing this new approach is essential. This session will describe how that has occurred in one school, one step at a time.
- [Helping Parents through Resource Centres](#)
Schools can either be the site for or support parent resource centres that offer a range of services for parents. This session will show what, why and how.
- [Community Access to the Web](#)
Industry Canada has worked with the provinces to offer Internet access to the community through schools, libraries and community centres. This session will discuss the lessons learned from this program with a focus on how such joint efforts can be linked to employment, health and social services.

12:15 – 1:45

Keynote
Presentation

Lunch & Keynote:

Policy & Program Options for Moving Towards a Comprehensive Approach

This session will report on the pre-conference webinars and meeting that have been developing a summary statement on how the healthy, community and safe school movements and programs can address the needs of disadvantaged school communities.

1:45-3:15

Panel
Presentation

Taking Action through Coordination

This session will describe how three of Nova Scotia's School Health teams are addressing different types of disadvantage and building on community strengths.

- Overcoming geographical isolation (Chignecto Central)

- Reducing cultural isolation (Acadian School Board)
- Using Traditional Aboriginal Knowledge (Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey)

3:15 – 3:30

Health Break

3:30 – 5:00

Concurrent
Workshops

Taking Action: Part Two

- Transitions from Head Start/Early Childhood Programs
This session will examine the steps that primary schools, health and family services should be taking together to ensure continuing progress for young children enrolled in head start programs.
- Schools as Community Centres/Full Service/Wrap-Around Schools
This session will discuss the Canada wide trend to position schools as the hub for the delivery of several services in the community. The process, pitfalls and potential of inter-ministry, inter-agency and inter-professional agreements and protocols for coordinated services delivery through schools will be examined.
- University-School Partnerships/Community Service Learning
University and college students can be a great source of support for schools in disadvantaged communities. This session will describe how to initiate such partnerships.
- Canadian Street Youth: Risks and Implications
This evidence-based session will focus on data regarding Canadian street youth, along with policy and program responses, aimed at improving their lives.

5:00 – 6:30

Reception

Participants will have supper on their own following an informal reception.

Friday, April 23, 2010

8:00-8:45

Coffee, Tea, Juices

8:45 – 9:15

Keynote
Presentation

Keynote: Knowledge Exchange through the Web

- Gwen Williams, Nova Scotia Health Promotion Clearinghouse

This session will highlight how web-based knowledge exchange work can assist school health teams to draw from the expertise of others around the world. The session will benefit from presentations from knowledge management organizations and clearinghouses in Nova Scotia, Canada and other countries.

9:15 – 9:30

Health Break

9:45-11:30

Concurrent
Workshops

Taking Action: Part Three

- Right to Play Programs /School Sports
Recruiting marginalized youth into school recreation and sports programs has significant benefits to them, their families, the school and the neighbourhood. This session will describe how to initiate a partnership with your recreation department.
- Youth, Diversity and Supportive Resources
This session will address issues of diversity in school-based settings and how to provide supportive environments for all students. Resources developed to address the issues of sexual orientation and gender identity in schools will be featured along with a toolkit on assisting students in assessing the quality of online sexual health information.
- After school programs
The Boys & Girls Clubs and the Royal Bank of Canada have worked together to support after school programs for several years. This session will describe the ins and outs of developing such programs in disadvantaged communities.
- Police-School Partnerships

A good working relationship with police officers and the police department/detachment is essential if programs such as diversion programs, restorative justice and alternatives to school suspensions are to be successful. This session will discuss how such relationships can be developed and maintained.

11:30-12:30

Keynote
Presentation

Keynote: European & American Colleagues Respond

This plenary discussion will begin with the observations of our international guests as well as leaders of our Canadian Community of Practice. The goal is to encourage reflections on how advocates and practitioners of healthy schools, community schools and safe schools can develop more of a focus on disadvantaged communities in their own work and practice.

12:30 – 1:30

Lunch

1:30 – 2:00

Panel
Presentations

Panel: Canadian Initiatives to Alleviate Disadvantage

This session will feature brief presentations on national initiatives that will help to address disadvantaged schools and communities. These national activities will be resources and guidance for our work following the conference.

- Youth at the Centre of Substance Abuse Prevention
Lesley Whyte, Council on Drug Abuse will describe a multi-component program tailored to reach at risk and disadvantaged communities
- CACE-CASH Community of Practice on Disadvantaged Communities
Delphine Melchert, Canadian Association for Community Education will learn more about the activities of the CoP on Disadvantaged Communities
- Healthy Communities and Disadvantage
Lorna McCue or her designate from the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition will describe a national project demonstrating how to mobilize communities to address disadvantages.
- Indigenous School Health Framework & Community of Practice
A culturally relevant, strength-based approach to school health and social development will be explained in this presentation. Developed by the National Collaborating Centre on Aboriginal School Health in cooperation with CASH.

2:00 – 3:00

Conference
Wrap-up

Networking and Action Planning on Canadian and International Next Steps

Conference participants will learn more about planned follow up the conference.

Post Conference Activities

- The elements of the summary statement on supporting schools in disadvantaged communities will be used as a guide in developing a series of at least four webinars (supported by selected readings and digitally recorded for later reference or use at any time) by the Canadian Association for School Health. These sessions will be free for members of the Canadian School Health Knowledge Network as well as participants in this Halifax conference and Geneva symposium.