



## 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 & Post Conference Activities

- Pre-conference readings and post conference Webinars are part of your conference registration package. The readings will be posted on the wiki-based web site of the Canadian School Health community. Go to [www.canadianschoolhealth.ca](http://www.canadianschoolhealth.ca) , select Communities of Practice, select Schools Serving Disadvantaged Communities, select [Selected Research, Reports and Resources](#)
- Post-conference, 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 (heard and seen through your computer) will be free for members of the Canadian School Health Knowledge Network as well as participants in this Halifax conference and an [International symposium on health, equity and sustainability](#) being held in Geneva.

### 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

### Putting it Together (Evidence-based Action)

Panel  
Presentation

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. The session will begin with an evidenced-based rationale for taking action on disparities that will improve health, education and social development outcomes. Discussion will then turn to interventions that have been demonstrated through experience and evidence to make a difference

- Chris Jones, Executive Director, Centre of Excellence on Community Schools, United Kingdom
- Charles E. Basch, the Richard March Hoe Professor of Health and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, United States

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

- Sheila Debly, Director, Field Operations/ Chapter Development, Breakfast for Learning
- Margo Reibe-Butt, Provincial Coordinator, Nova Scotia, Breakfast for Learning
- Debbie Madore, Co-Chair, Breakfast for Learning Nova Scotia Chapter, Nutritionist, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
- Richard Derible, Principal, Ecole St. Catherine's in Halifax

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.

#### Community and Business Partnerships with Schools

- Deborah Fisher, Partners Assisting Local Schools, Saint John, New Brunswick

Research clearly shows that the younger a child is when provided critical lessons and support regarding self-esteem, literacy, numeracy and a sense of direction, the greater the likelihood of a future filled with hope and potential. The PALS (Partners Assisting Local Schools) Initiative in New

Brunswick and in particular Saint John, NB was initiated in 2001 by Mr. J.K. Irving and School District 8 as a community and local business response to the cycle of poverty and the needs of schools serving disadvantaged neighbourhoods. It has had a positive impact on virtually every facet of student life – academic achievement, enrolment, school spirit, student behaviour and social skills, student motivation, sports activity, cultural awareness, and pride in being part of the school and local community. This presentation will profile the PALS model as well as provide concrete examples of how to establish, nurture and maintain mutually beneficial education/community partnerships.

#### Community Access to the Web

- Karen Paruski, Community Access Program, Department of Education, NS

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

#### **Lunch & Keynote:**

Keynote  
Presentation

#### **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 - Sue Stevenson - Chignecto Central School Board
- Reducing cultural isolation – Michel Pothier Acadian School Board
- Using Traditional Aboriginal Knowledge - Darren Googoo - Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey

3:15 – 3:30

#### **Health Break**

3:30 – 5:00

#### **Taking Action: Part Two**

Concurrent  
Workshops

#### Working within and with Indigenous Communities

- Shirley Tagalik, Consultant, Chair, Aboriginal School Health Community of Practice

This session will present, discuss and then apply a framework that includes concepts, principles and values that are part of an Indigenous approach and framework to school health promotion that was developed in consultations with tribal nations from around the world.

#### Schools as Community Centres/Full Service/Wrap-Around Schools

- Anne-Marie Livingstone, Moderator
- Tara Moore, Schools Plus, Department of Education, Nova Scotia
- Paule Langevin, Community Learning Centres, Ministry of Education, Quebec
- Maureen Strawson, Community School Coordinator, Saskatoon, SK

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

- Marla Gaudet, Program Manager, Service Learning, St Francis Xavier University

University and college students can be a great source of support for schools in disadvantaged communities. This session will describe how to build and maintain such partnerships.

5:00 – 6:30

## Reception

Following the reception, participants will have supper and a free evening.

## 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

#### Youth, Diversity, Vulnerability and Supportive Resources

- Lisa Smylie, Public Health Agency of Canada,
- Calvin Fraser, Director-General, Canadian Teachers Federation
- Andre Grace, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta.

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

- Darlene MacLean, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of Spryfield, NS

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

- Bob Hall, Drug Awareness Programs, RCMP

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 & Plenary Discussion: Colleagues Respond to “Putting the Pieces Together”

- Delphine Melchert, President, Canadian Association for Community Education
- Dwayne Provo, School Health Coordinator, Department of Education, Nova Scotia
- Chris Jones, Executive Director, International Centre on Community Schools, UK

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  
Roundtable  
Presentations

## **Canadian Initiatives to Alleviate Disadvantage, Balance Disparities and Support Vulnerable Populations**

This participatory round table plenary session will feature brief presentations on provincial and national initiatives that will help to address the needs and strengths of schools serving disadvantaged communities. These activities will be resources and guidance for our work following the conference.

### Nova Scotia's Child and Youth Strategy

- Robert Wright, Executive Director, Child and Youth Strategy, Nova Scotia

The C&Y Strategy is an initiative to improve services to children, youth, and families through greater collaboration between five key Government departments: Health, Education, Community Services, Justice, and, Health Promotion and Protection.

### Youth at the Centre of Substance Abuse Prevention

- Lesley Whyte, Council on Drug Abuse

This presentation will describe a multi-component program tailored to reach at risk and disadvantaged communities. This program is being adapted for delivery in high risk communities across the country.

### CACE-CASH Community of Practice on Disadvantaged Communities

- Delphine Melchert, Canadian Association for Community Education

Delphine will describe the work of the Canadian Association for Community Education and of the joint activities of the CoP on Disadvantaged Communities.

### Indigenous School Health Framework & Community of Practice

- Shirley Tagalik, Consultant, Indigenous School Health Project

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 the Canadian Association for School Health, the framework was developed in cooperation with indigenous tribes around the world, including the Seminoles, Dakota, Navaho, Hawaii, Maori, Torres Strait Islanders and others.

### National Collaborating Centre on Determinants of Health

- Hope Beanlands, Executive Director, NCCDH, Antigonish, NS

The NCCDH has made early child development a key focus of its work. Children are the youngest and most vulnerable members of our society and the conditions they grow up in can shape their health for life. The NCCDH focuses on early child development in three broad areas, early child development as a determinant of health, public health early child home visiting and school readiness.

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.