



Primary Health Care

When people need health care, they most often turn to primary health care services, such as visiting their family physician, a nurse practitioner or a local pharmacist, or calling a telephone health information line. Primary health care is the foundation of the health care system, providing everyday services to Canadians as well as coordinating more specialized care when needed. As such, primary health care renewal is widely regarded as key to quality and sustainability in the health care system.

Primary Health Care Transition Fund

In September 2000, First Ministers agreed that improvements in primary health care were crucial to the renewal of Canada's health care system. The federal government created the \$800 million Primary Health Care Transition Fund (PHCTF) to support the efforts of provinces and territories, and other stakeholders, to improve the way primary health care services are delivered across Canada.

Changing how primary health care is organized and delivered in Canada is a complex and challenging undertaking which demands an unprecedented level of collaboration across jurisdictions and among health care professionals. The Tools for Transition component of the PHCTF is supporting this process by providing the opportunity to develop new tools and knowledge, as well as to hold conferences and workshops to share information and experiences.

Best Practices Network

In September 2004, First Ministers agreed to establish a Best Practices Network to identify best practices in primary health care renewal, to provide opportunities for key stakeholders to share their successful experiences with renewal as it is occurring, and to identify areas for potential collaboration.

To date, four events have been planned with Health Canada funding. The first three events will focus on topics crucial to the success of primary health care renewal, and each will be hosted by a different province. The fourth event will be hosted by Health Canada and will address the Network's ongoing role in supporting primary health care renewal over time.

A list of some upcoming events related to Tools for Transition and the Best Practices Network is provided in the following calendar. More information on primary health care and other PHCTF initiatives can be found at: <http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/phc>.

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PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TRANSITION FUND

(note that *many* of these events are by invitation only)

Date	Location	Event/Initiative	Contact
September 11 & 12, 2005	Toronto, Ontario	Increasing Support for Family Physicians in Primary Care	Patricia Marturano College of Family Physicians of Canada Tel: (905) 629-0900 Email: pm@cfpc.ca
September 22 & 23, 2005	Winnipeg, Manitoba	Primary Health Care and Telehealth: Making the Links	Liz Loewen Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Tel: (204) 975-7738 E-mail: lloewen@mbtelehealth.ca www.makingthelinks.mbtelehealth.ca
September 23 & 24, 2005	Winnipeg, Manitoba	National First Nations and Inuit Telehealth Summit	Valerie Gideon Assembly of First Nations Tel: (613) 241-6789 Email: vgideon@afn.ca
October 26-28, 2005	Halifax, Nova Scotia	Building Blocks to a Sustainable Primary Health Care System	Linda Hamilton College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia Tel: (902) 491-9744 x 233 Email: lh@crnns.ca
October 28 & 29, 2005	Richmond, British Columbia	Reaching the Tipping Point in Primary Health Care Renewal	Sharon Baskett Western Healthcare Improvement Network Tel: (604) 945-3574 Email: sharon@theciainc.com
November 3-5, 2005	Vancouver, British Columbia	Where's the Patient's Voice in Health Professional Education?	Cathy Kline College of Health Disciplines, University of British Columbia Tel: (604) 822-8002 Email: cckline@interchange.ubc.ca

PHCTF (continued)

Date	Location	Event/Initiative	Contact
November 7 & 8, 2005	St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador	National Workshop on Enhancing Primary Health Care: Learning and Applying Facilitation within a Systems Model	Heather White Department of Health and Community Services, Newfoundland and Labrador Tel: (709) 729-0390 Email: heatherwhite@gov.nl.ca
October to December 2005	Various locations in British Columbia	Regional Workshops to Encourage and Support Uptake of Chronic Disease Management (CDM) Best Practices	Angela Micco British Columbia Ministry of Health Services Tel: (250) 952-3123 Email: angela.micco@gems3.gov.bc.ca
February 2006 (tentative)	Halifax, Nova Scotia	How Should We Pay our Family Physicians? - A Forum for Exploring Remuneration Models which Support Primary Health Care Renewal	Kelly Grover Nova Scotia Department of Health Tel: (902) 424-2632 Email: groverkj@gov.ns.ca
FY 2005/2006	Ottawa, Ontario	Becoming Partners: A Consultation to Build Support for a Canadian Caregiving Strategy Among Primary Health Care Providers	Linda Lysne Canadian Caregiver Coalition Tel: (613) 353-8765 Email: llylne@sympatico.ca www.ccc-ccan.ca
FY 2005/2006	Location(s) TBD	Supporting Implementation of Electronic Medical Records (EMR) in Multi-Disciplinary Primary Health Care Settings	Sandra Tomkins Primary Health Care Policy Unit Health Canada Tel: (613) 954-8226 Email: sandra_tomkins@hc-sc.gc.ca
FY 2005/2006	Location TBD	Chronic Disease Management (CDM) National Workshop	Vena Persaud Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Tel: (416) 212-0832 Email: Vena.Persaud@moh.gov.on.ca

PHCTF (continued)

Date	Location	Event/Initiative	Contact
FY 2005/2006	Location TBD	Measuring Cost-Effectiveness: A Proposal to Develop a Methodological Framework for Future Research	Ken Hoffman Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centres Association Tel: (613) 729-0308 Email: khoffman@web.ca
FY 2005/2006	Location(s) TBD	Building Capacity in PHC: Disseminating Best Practices in Interdisciplinary Teamwork from Community Health Centres	Ken Hoffman Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centres Association Tel: (613) 729-0308 Email: khoffman@web.ca

BEST PRACTICES NETWORK

(note that *all* of these events are by invitation only)

Date	Location	Event	Contact
November 3, 2005	Winnipeg, Manitoba	Provider Participation and Collaboration	Louise Rosborough Primary Health Care Policy Unit Health Canada Tel: (613) 957-0730 Email: louise_rosborough@hc-sc.gc.ca
February 2006	Newfoundland and Labrador	Interdisciplinary Approaches to Care	
June 2006	Location TBD	Responding to Community Needs	
November 2006	Location TBD	Moving Forward with a Network to Share Successes in the Future	

Details are accurate as of printing date. For an update, please visit: <http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/phc>

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Upcoming Events

Primary Health Care Transition Fund
- Tools for Transition

Best Practices Network