

## **Skills Enhancement Learner and Facilitator Forum**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the Public Health Agency of Canada together with the Institut national de santé publique du Québec hosted a Skills Enhancement Learner and Facilitator Forum in Quebec City. The purpose of the Forum was to facilitate discussion and generate ideas to build public health capacity in Canada, including workforce development, public health human resource planning, and Core Competencies and Skills Enhancement for Public Health.

More than 140 inter-professional public health practitioners representing all provinces and territories discussed where Skills Enhancement has been and where the Program is going. They also identified current issues and needs, as well as future plans. Over the one and a half day Forum participants produced a series of priority action items for the Skills Enhancement Team, including:

- Support the facilitators
- Address emerging public health topic areas
- Maintain ease of access to the Program
- Keep the learning going
- Continue to improve the Program
- Link with Core Competencies for Public Health
- Market the value of the Program
- Provide tangible recognition for learners and facilitators
- Promote inter-sectorial, inter-professional collaboration
- Include more Aboriginal content
- Support the learners.

This experience was further enriched by the Core Competencies for Public Health consultation. Participants provided feedback on the competencies initiative and specific competency statements, and helped generate ideas to strengthen public health capacity in Canada. The Core Competencies for Public Health initiative has begun its Canada-wide consultation process. For more information, or to get involved in the consultation, visit [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/php-ppsp/core\\_competencies\\_for\\_ph\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/php-ppsp/core_competencies_for_ph_e.html).

Together, we WILL make a difference to build a strong public health foundation!