



## **OPHA to hold 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Eastern Ontario**

COOPERATION - COLLABORATION

A foundation for public health

October 23, 2006 – Three hundred public health professionals from all regions of the province will come together in Cornwall from Wednesday October 25 to Friday October 27, 2006, as the Eastern Ontario Health Unit joins with the Ontario Public Health Association to host the latter's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

Conference delegates, including Medical Officers of Health, public health nurses, dietitians, and others in the public health field, will participate in a wide variety of events and activities with a view to promoting excellence and innovation in public health through the advancement of collaborative community initiatives.

Program highlights include a session with Dr. Sheela Basrur, the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health, keynote speeches by noted health professionals and academics Dr. Lawrence Frank, Dr. David Swann and Dr. Andrew Pipe, and dozens of presentations on issues such as Working Together Towards a Healthy Environment, Empowering Marginalized Communities and Serving Vulnerable Populations, Community Mobilization, Healthy Weights and Chronic Disease Prevention, and Theory Behind Practice. A panel discussion on Communications, Media Relations and Marketing: Taking Public Health to the Public, will feature, among other speakers, Canadian Press medical reporter Helen Branswell.

"We are very pleased to be hosting this incredible event with the Ontario Public Health Association," said Dr. Robert Bourdeau, Medical Officer of Health for the Eastern Ontario Health Unit. "Many people have worked very hard to put together an excellent program full of interesting and relevant speakers and presentations."

"The theme of Cooperation, Collaboration, Synergy: A Foundation for Public Health not only describes emphasis of the conference on collaboration in promoting the health of the people of this province," added OPHA's President Dr. Garry Aslanyan. "it also happily describes the experience we've had working with the Eastern Ontario Health Unit to prepare for this event."

To enhance the networking opportunities for delegates, the Conference will also offer an exhibit area and social events that will allow attendees to celebrate public health successes.

Registration will be available onsite at the NAVCanada Centre throughout the conference. For more information, visit www.ophaconference.ca.

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