

## **Making Healthy Communities Count – A Public Health Summit**

NIAGARA REGION, October 21, 2008 – The media are invited to attend Making Healthy Communities Count – A Public Health Summit from October 26 – 29, 2008. This conference is hosted by the [Association of Local Public Health Agencies](#), the [Ontario Public Health Association](#), and Niagara Region Public Health. More than 400 public health professionals and academics from across Ontario will gather in Niagara Falls to explore the diversity of perspectives on the public health landscape across Ontario and beyond; build on our capacity as a strong, energized community and public health system; and, strengthen the interrelationships which empower individuals and communities in the public health network.

WHO: Keynote speakers include:  
The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues & Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction – 'Poverty Focus'  
Maude Barlow, National Chairperson for the Council of Canadians – 'Saving Our Water, A Public Health Issue'  
Dr. Clyde Hertzman, Director, Human Early Learning Partnership – 'Monitoring Child Development in the Community: A Key to Understanding, Intervention and Change'  
Dr. Vivek Goel, CEO, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion – 'Ontario Public Health, Exciting Times'  
Graham Scott, President, Graham Scott Strategies – 'Governance / Accountability and the new Ontario Public Health Standards'  
Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, MOH, Peterborough County-City Health Unit – 'Interventions for Poverty' – Working Policy Lunch  
Dr. Roger Ulrich, Beale Professor of Facilities Design, Texas A&M University – 'Evidence-Based Design for Healthy Hospitals and Communities'

Panels include:

1. Climate Change: David Phillips, Senior Climatologist, Environment Canada; Jeff Beyer, Development Worker, Engineers Without Borders Canada; and Kathleen Carter, Manager, Strategic Policy Branch, Ministry of Environment.

2. Public Health and the Challenge of Poverty – Advocacy and Intervention: Brian Hutchings, Commissioner of Community Services, Niagara Region; Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health; Nick Saul, Executive Director, The STOP Community Food Centre; Wangari Muriuki, Street Health Community Nurses Foundation; and Donna McMaster, Community Member.
3. Fostering Community Success: Making a Difference through our Connections and Questions: Dr. Brenda Zimmerman, PhD, York University; Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit; Stephen Butz, CEO of Niagara YMCA; and Marc Brulé, Lead Pastor, WellSpring Community Church.
4. Children's Rights in Action – Empowering Youth through Community Collaboration and Partnership: Judy Reid Manager, Labour Force Development/Early Years Niagara, Business Education Council of Niagara; David Lorenzo Manager, Niagara Region Public Health; and youth representatives from R.E.A.C.T. (Niagara Region Public Health), Teen Esteem, Niagara Falls Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, and Niagara school boards.

WHEN: October 26 – 29, 2008. For a complete program overview visit [www.publichealthsummit.com](http://www.publichealthsummit.com).

WHERE: Sheraton on the Falls, 5875 Falls Avenue, Niagara Falls

WHY: This is an exciting time for public health in Ontario. Such developments as: the imminent implementation of New Public Health Standards and Protocols approved by three Ontario government ministries; the emergence of the newly launched Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion operating at arms length from government and providing leadership in various aspects of public health including control of the Public Health Laboratories; and the highly anticipated McGuinty government's anti-poverty strategy carry significant implications for the health of our communities. Presentations will address such themes as: youth engagement, environment and climate change, poverty/health inequalities and community capacity.

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