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Echo News - November 2010

Echo responds to the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions Final Report

The Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions released its Final Report recently, but failed to consider gender when shaping its recommendations.

[Read Echo's response...](#)

Meet Echo's newest Board Member - Audrey M.Johnson



The board of Echo is pleased to introduce a recent addition to Echo's Board of Directors.
Audrey M. Johnson is the Executive Director of the National Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)

[Read Audrey Johnson's bio](#)

[Echo's Board of Directors](#)

Echo engages mental health stakeholders in forum theatre



Echo ran a workshop at the Canadian Mental Health Association Conference *Thriving in 2010 and Beyond* this past October. The presentation was done in an interactive

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Echo is accepting articles and event submissions. Please contact Julie McFayden for submission requirements at 416.597.9687 ext. 232 or [via email](#).

forum theatre style (a style developed out of the work of Augusto Boal, a Brazilian theatre director, writer and politician and founder of the Theatre of the Oppressed).

A series of skits were performed by Echo staff members in order to demonstrate situations of oppression. The audience was then invited to participate in the skit by replacing a character to act out a possible solution, idea or intervention. This interactive format allowed the audience to critically engage in the issues presented and provide solutions that could be applied in real life situations. The forum theatre also provided an opportunity for participants to better understand the issues that women and service providers in Ontario are facing with regards to mental health and addictions while allowing them to draw on their own experiences.

The workshop focused on issues that were brought up by Ontario women during Echo's consultations on mental health and addictions in the fall of 2009. These consultations included health care providers, activists, advocates, policy makers, researchers and the largest group - women with lived experience of mental illness and/or addictions. The main recommendations to improve Ontario's mental health and addictions system were to:

- (1) Integrate mental health and addictions services;
- (2) Incorporate a trauma-informed approach in all mental health and addictions treatments;
- (3) Make the system more accessible to women; and
- (4) Address poverty and housing for prevention and to aid recovery.

[View a skit from Echo's interactive forum theatre.](#)

Post courtesy of [Nurse Kama's Twitter](#), a Clinical Nurse specialist working in tertiary health care setting in Southwestern Ontario.

Pat Campbell talks **Women's Priorities for a Changing Mental Health System**



The Women's Health and Mental Wellbeing Speakers Series

Our CEO was honoured to kick off this year's Women's Health and Mental Wellbeing speakers series at York University in October.

Organized by Dr. Nazilla Khanlou, Echo/Ontario Women's Health Council Chair in Women's Mental Health Research at York University, the series aims to promote interdisciplinary understanding of women's health and mental wellbeing. Attendees included students, faculty and community members.

Pat's address focused on women's priorities for a changing mental health system. She spoke of the growing recognition of the need for improvement in the sector sighting initiatives like Every Door is the Right Door, the Excellent Care for All Act 2010 and Echo's own cross provincial consultations, which provide recommendations on improving the mental health and addictions system in Ontario (Report to the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions).

She concluded her presentation by assessing the alignment of planned changes with needs that women have identified.

[View Pat's presentation](#) 

[View upcoming dates - Women's Health & Mental Wellbeing Speakers Series](#)

Ontario Hospital Association **Equity Conference**



*On Friday December 3, 2010 the Ontario Hospital Association will host the **Equity and Diversity: Essential to Excellent Care for All** conference.*

Striving toward Excellent Care for All means provider organizations, now, more than ever, need to have systems in place to ensure continuous quality improvement. Ontario has an increasingly diverse population and health services need to adapt to the needs of their patients, staff and community. This conference will provide attendees with the opportunity to explore organizational initiatives and strategies such as collaborative practice, knowledge and advocacy. Topics to be discussed at this event include:

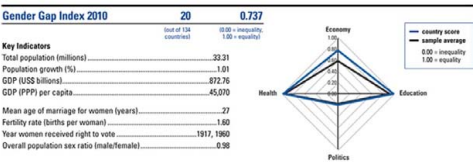
- How National Standards Would Support Quality Care
- Patient Declaration of Values
- Strategies for Advancing Culturally Competent Care: The Sick Kids Experience
- The Uninsured: Improving Access and Removing Barriers
- The Project for an Ontario Women's health Evidence-Based Report (POWER): A Joint Study by St. Michael's Hospital and ICES

The event will be moderated by Pat Campbell, CEO, Echo.

[Click to access the program](#)

Interesting Resources

Canada 2010



Canada ranks 20 out of 134 countries in the 2010 Global Gender Gap Report.

[Canada's Gender Gap Index 2010](#)

[The Global Gender Gap Report - Full report](#) (16.5MB)

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) a part of the US Department of Health and Human Services has released a summary of findings from a cross-section of AHRQ-supported research projects focusing on women's health topics.

[Click to view...](#)

Observances



November is Incontinence Awareness Month

Visit the [Canadian Continence Foundation](#) to access a wealth of information on incontinence.

December 6th is National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

The day represents a time to reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society. It is also a day for communities and individuals to think about the concrete actions that each of us can take to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women.

Visit the [Ontario Women's Directorate](#) to learn more about this day of remembrance.

Event Calendar



December 2
Certificate for Implementing the Guide to Good Governance - Toronto
The Ontario Hospital Association

[Event details and brochure](#)

[Register online](#)



December 10
Balanced Governance Scorecard - Toronto
The Ontario Hospital Association

[Event details and brochure](#)

[Register online](#)



February 11
Promoting Health Equity: Action on the Social Determinants of Health- Toronto
The Faculty of Community Services, Ryerson University

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This site was last updated: 07 February, 2011.