

NEWS

News Archive

Calendar

Newsletter

Newsletter Archive

Echo News - January 2011

Message from the CEO



As we embark on 2011 we naturally turn to reflecting on the year past and the year to come. Echo is excited to be working in collaboration with many dynamic partners on opportunities to improve women's health in Ontario. Our partners span a variety of health or health service challenges and together we are starting to dissect both the challenges and the solutions together with the women affected.

Women have been generous in sharing their perspectives with Echo. In 2010, we engaged with literally thousands of women across the province, either directly through our Echo Conversation events or through the projects we are spearheading. And we are emerging with a key set of priorities for action in the Ontario Women's Health Framework very shortly.

As we spoke with women across the province, we found that they are very invested in supporting health –their own and the health of their families. In 2011 better ways of supporting that desire for health will crystallize through our work with partners. Get connected and stay tuned...

NOW AVAILABLE - Directory of Women's Health Researchers - A List of Researchers Improving Women's Health in Ontario



NOW AVAILABLE Women's College Research Institute (WCRI) and Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario are pleased to announce the new Directory of Women's Health Researchers - A List of Researchers Improving Women's Health in Ontario.

Building on WCRI's University of Toronto – Directory of Women's Health Researchers, the new Directory aims to provide a comprehensive listing of researchers working in the field of women's health and related areas. It will ultimately support a broad community of women's health scientists and students from across Ontario.

University, community-based and independent researchers from across Ontario are invited to [join the Directory](#) for an opportunity to collaborate and share information. We also invite anyone interested in women's health to join as a directory user to find researchers working on specific issues all across the province.

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER

SUBMIT

Submit your events and articles here

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

We welcome your feedback. Please [contact us](#) with your suggestions and queries.

Echo Board Chair



Dr Caroline Andrew completed her term as Echo's Board Chair in 2010. Echo is very grateful for her leadership over the start up of the agency and we congratulate her on being noted as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network.

The Government of Ontario Public Appointment Secretariat is seeking applicants for the position of Board Chair for Echo. Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding the Board Chair is appointed by government. Please review the [Echo Chair advertisement](#), posted on the Public Appointments Secretariat and distribute it through your networks.

It is an exciting time to join Echo's Board to help refine the women's health agenda at this time of change in Ontario. Echo is involved in significant health system change projects affecting access to cancer screening for marginalized women, women's engagement with cardiac and stroke rehabilitation and a review of Ontario's Fetal Fibronectin Testing project—a test that reliably predicts which women with pre-term labour will go on to deliver prematurely.

The following links provide additional information on the opportunity.

[Echo](#)

[About Echo](#)

[Public Appointments Secretariat](#)

[Information about Echo - Public Appointments Secretariat](#)

[How to Apply](#)

Echo Advances Released - Ontario Women's Health Framework - Hearing Women's Voices



Last summer, Echo travelled across Ontario to engage stakeholders in discussion about a draft Ontario Women's Health Framework. We partnered with several organizations on events which provided an opportunity to share information about the current state of women's health in Ontario, involve participants in discussion about their access to and experiences with the health care system, and gather input around the Framework and its implementation.

Women from Cornwall, Halton, London, Thunder Bay and York Region, brought their diverse perspectives and knowledge of women's health issues in their communities to discussions that have helped strengthen the Framework.
Read Echo's key recommendations on the Ontario Women's Health Framework coming out of these discussions.

[Cornwall](#) 

[Halton](#) 

[London](#) 

[Thunder Bay](#) 

[York Region](#) 

Echo appreciates the support of the following partners:
Social Development of Cornwall & area, Community Development Halton, Pillar Nonprofit Network, NorWest Community Health Centres, Ontario's Community Health Centres, SPCYR, Community Legal Clinic of York Region

Identifying **Violence Against Women** in Health Care Settings



Echo recently funded the McMaster Violence Against Women (VAW) Research Program to examine the question: Is screening for woman abuse effective in preventing subsequent violence and improving quality of life?

Several studies were conducted on large and diverse samples of women and clinicians from across Ontario, including in Aboriginal settings. Findings of the study suggest that health care providers should not be universally screening women for intimate partner violence. Instead, they need to be alert to the signs and symptoms of intimate partner violence exposure and ask questions about abuse if these are present.

Read Echo's recommendations in the Echo Advance on [Identifying Violence Against Women in Health Care Settings](#) .

Echo **Funded Projects**



Echo is pleased to announce the following projects:

Incontinence in mid-life women: Tools to aid in communication and decision-making

Dr. Jennifer Skelly Dr. Donna Fedorkow, McMaster University; Dr. Tazim Virani, Tazim Virani & Associates; Dr. Dawn Stacey, University of Ottawa; Irmajean Bajnok and Rishma Nazarali, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.

\$50,000 to lead the research, development and pilot testing of a decision aid to help mid-life women better communicate with their health providers about their experiences with incontinence and make appropriate treatment decisions given that less than 50% of women discuss incontinence issues with their provider.

Evaluation of Demonstration Projects Designed to Support Smoking Cessation During and After Pregnancy

Dr. Robert Schwartz, Dr. Alexey Babayan and Dr. Maritt Kirtz, Ontario Tobacco Research Unit; Dr. Kim Bercovitz, University of Toronto

\$90,000 to conduct process evaluations and outcome evaluations for three demonstration projects that are currently being designed to support smoking cessation during and after pregnancy with marginalized women.

Women's Health Leadership Program - Program Evaluation

Betsy Kappel and Zubeida Ramji, Kappel Ramji Consulting Group; Radha Nayar, Nayar Consulting

\$40,000 to work with the project team to create and deliver program evaluation for the [Women's Health Leadership Program](#).

View [Echo Funded Projects](#) for a complete list.

Upcoming Women's Health Leadership Retreats



The Ontario Women's Health Network (OWHN) is currently accepting applications for the upcoming Women's Health Leadership 101 training retreats scheduled for March 7-9, 2011 and March 23-25, 2011, respectively, at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston.

Retreat Date: March 7 - 9, 2011 ~ Application Deadline: January 26, 2011

Retreat Date: March 23 - 25, 2011 ~ Application Deadline: February 2, 2011

The program, funded by Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario, seeks to amplify women's voices in the development of health policy, research and services in the community.

Women's Health Leadership 101 addresses leadership and sex and gender based analysis in the context of women's health and health systems in a participatory and supportive environment. It explores women's own sense of leadership and application of skills, while enhancing their leadership skills and community networks.

This program is designed for women who are motivated and interested in women's health issues and who are already actively engaged in their communities. The

program seeks to recruit women who are committed to being active in women's health issues in their communities following the retreat.

More information about the program is contained in the attached application package. Visit the [Women's Health Leadership](#) Program page on the OWHN website at www.own.on.ca.

Women who are interested in applying to participate in the Women's Health Leadership Program should complete the attached application and return it to OWHN by the appropriate application deadline date (shown above).

We welcome you to share this application package with women who you think are ideal candidates for this program.

Please do not hesitate to contact OWHN with questions about the program or application process.

OWHN: 416-408-4840 or toll-free 1-877-860-4545 email: own@own.on.ca

[Application](#) 

Women's Health Scholars **Awards**



Initially funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and supported by Echo, a Scholar Awards Program in Women's Health has been established to ensure that Ontario attracts and retains pre-eminent women's health scholars. Applications are being accepted up until January 30, 2011. Up to one award will be made at each of the Master's, Doctoral and Post-doctoral levels.

[Read more...](#)

Caregivers: When Will We Start Caring for Them?

By Dr. Catherine Brookman



A long overdue focus on the role of informal caregivers as a major contributing factor to maintaining people in their own homes has been successfully highlighted with concrete data in the August, 2010 report by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) "*Supporting Informal Caregivers - The Heart of Home Care*".

[Read more...](#)

Visit [Care to Know](#) website

Echo is Supporting Pregnant and Recently Pregnant Women to **Quit Smoking**



In December 2010 and January 2011 (during National Non-Smoking Week), Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario in partnership with Peterborough County-City Health Unit, The NorWest Community Health Centres, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton and North Bay Indian Friendship Centre held four events with women of childbearing age (who were current smokers or who had recently quit) in order to:

- 1) Share and support reflection on best practice guidelines designed to support smoking cessation among pregnant women; and
- 2) Support women's research-informed perspectives to shape a smoking cessation program model for pregnant and recently pregnant women which is suited to their communities.

Over the coming three years, Echo will partner with two of the four sites in order to test the models the women designed. In the other two sites, Echo and its partners supported community women to share their research-informed program models with local service providers to raise awareness; one organization in each of these sites subsequently announced their intention to revise existing programs to incorporate the planning work done by the community women.

Echo is also exploring a partnership in order to offer online resources for quitting smoking, to smoking pregnant women and health care providers across the province. The overall aim is to share the learnings from this work so that pregnant and recently pregnant women across Ontario are supported to quit smoking.

[View an interview clip](#) at CHEX Television (Peterborough).

Stay tuned for more details on these events and the programs that are to follow!

Observances

February is Heart Month

Visit the [Heart Foundation of Ontario](#)

National Eating Disorders Awareness Week - February 3 - 9

Eating disorders are the most common chronic illnesses in the female adolescent population, with an incidence of up to 5%.

Visit [National Eating Disorder Information Centre](#) for information and resources.

International Women's Day - March 4

Visit [International Women's Day 2011](#) for news, events and resources.

Interesting Resources

[Immigrant Mental Health](#) (Login as an Echo Health Professional to view report)

[A New Way to Talk About the Social Determinants of Health:
Health starts where we live, learn, work and play](#)

[Nurses Grieve Too: Insights into Experiences with Perinatal Loss](#)

ECHO CALENDAR



Competencies for Population Health Intervention Researche

Date: Friday February 4, 2011
Venue: Online Webinar
Organizer: Canadian Population Health Initiative (CPHI) of the
Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
[To register online](#)



Lyle Palmer "Ontario Health Study - Toronto

Date: Tuesday February 8, 2011, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Venue: 480 University Ave. Suite 300, Toronto, ON
Organizer: The Ontario Agency for Health Protection and
Promotion (OAHPP)
[View event details](#)



Promoting Health Equity: Action on the Social Determinants of Health - Toronto

Date: Friday Saturday, February 11-12, 2011
Venue: Marriott Toronto, Eaton Centre
Organizer: The Faculty of Community Services, Ryerson
University
[View event details](#)



POWER Study Reproductive Health Chapter Release

Date: Tuesday February 22, 2011
Organizer: The POWER Study
[Visit powerstudy.ca on Feb 22 to view the chapter](#)



Mental Health Promotion and the Workplace - Burlington

Date: Thursday February 24, 2011, 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Venue: Silver City, 1250 Brant St. Burlington, Ontario
Organizer: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
Email: cheryl_vrkljan@camh.net for details

SHARE THIS PAGE



PRINT THIS PAGE

