



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Healthy Communities Conference 2010: Creating Community Capacity through Awareness Building and Partnership

Owen Sound, Ontario | May 11-12, 2010

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

February 12, 2010, 12:00 noon (EST)

Selection Notification will be emailed after March 1, 2010

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

This is a conference about the health of our citizens.

It is about transcending traditional organizational boundaries to influence the factors that determine health. This conference will increase awareness of the role municipal decision-makers, community members and various community sectors, including public health, education, environment, social services and business, have in developing healthy communities in a rural and small town context.

This conference will gather specific expertise and break down silos to ensure the focus remains on the health of citizens. The forum will inspire innovative ideas for intersectoral collaboration to enhance the physical and social environments of our rural and small communities.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

1. To raise awareness and encourage dialogue about healthy community development.
2. To support community stakeholders in the development of action plans to enhance the health of the community.
3. To foster linkages and partnerships among stakeholders to stimulate collaboration for healthy community development.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This conference will appeal to community stakeholders interested in building healthy communities, including:

- Municipal and community leaders
- Land use planners and developers
- Engineering and transportation professionals
- Public health practitioners
- Educators
- Health and social services
- Business and industry
- Community members

KEY PRIORITIES

The following priorities are provided as a framework from which to address the conference theme and objectives. The Conference Steering Committee encourages submissions that address one or more of these areas and that highlight innovative ideas for intersectoral collaboration which will enhance the physical and social environments of our communities.

- Access to education across the lifespan
- Access to healthy, nutritious food
- Active and alternative transportation
- Affordable housing
- Affordable recreation
- Clean air, soil and water
- Injury prevention
- Social inclusiveness

GENERAL ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Proposals are invited for oral presentations from individuals or groups.

Submissions must contain the following information:

1. The title of the presentation, which should clearly indicate the priority area(s) that will be addressed.

2. The name(s) of all presenter(s), job title(s), institutional or corporate affiliation and contact information, including e-mail address, phone and fax. The lead presenter's name should be highlighted, if applicable.
3. The speakers' previous speaking experience.
4. The proposed presentation format:
 - 20 minute oral presentation
 - 40 minute oral presentation (must cover 2 or more priority areas)
 - 60 minute panel discussion (must cover 3 or more priority areas)
5. A description of the session in no more than 300 words single-spaced, using Arial font (excluding title). Graphs, tables and other supporting documents are not permitted.
6. Any specialized equipment requirements for the presentation.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Abstracts will be reviewed using the criteria outlined below.

The key criteria for abstracts selected will be:

1. Relevance to healthy communities and to conference theme, objectives and priority areas.
2. Relevance to healthy community development in small communities and/or rural areas.
3. New and/or innovative practices introduced.
4. Implications for building healthy communities through effective engagement with communities and other sectors or through program integration and partnerships.
5. How the proposed session fits within the conference structure.
6. The presenters' expertise, knowledge and ability to engage and challenge participants.

Selection notification will be mailed after March 1, 2010.

In an effort to hold a "green" conference and for the benefit of conference attendees, presentation materials will be posted on the Grey Bruce Health Unit Website following the conference.

REVIEW PROCESS

1. All submissions will be reviewed by the Conference Steering Committee.
2. The decision of the Conference Steering Committee on the inclusion or rejection of a proposal, and the presentation format is final.
3. The Conference Steering Committee will notify those who have submitted proposals of its decision by e-mail.
4. Reviewer comments will not be supplied to those who have submitted proposals, nor will the Conference Steering Committee respond to requests for comment on the rejection of any proposal.

PRESENTER RESPONSIBILITY

1. Presenters will provide the Conference Chairperson with electronic files of session PowerPoint slides by the deadline (May 1, 2010). If Presenters wish to have handouts available, they are responsible for providing these.
2. Presenters must indicate intent to attend and register for the conference.
3. Presenters will be responsible for all expenses, including travel, conference registration, non-sponsored meals and miscellaneous charges.
4. Presenters will agree to the placement of their workshop materials on the Grey Bruce Health Unit Website for attendees to download.
5. Presenters will be available to present on May 11-12, 2010.

Please submit abstracts to:

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