



**Announcement - June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Creating Together: a research agenda for mental health and addictions\* in Ontario**

How can funders of research and scientists help to ensure that stakeholders have access to and use the latest research available? One of the best ways to support the integration of research in developing evidence-based policy and practice is through early involvement of stakeholders in the research process.

This is what the Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Knowledge Exchange Network (OMHAKEN), in partnership with a range of organizations, aims to do with a province-wide consultation process called Creating Together. Through a series of face-to-face, video-conference and electronic consultations, OMHAKEN is seeking input from a broad range of users of research across the province, including consumer/survivors, family members, clinicians, service providers, policy makers and government staff, as well as researchers themselves, to co-create a research agenda that will help guide research and knowledge exchange activity in Ontario over the next 3- 5 years.

Invited stakeholders are being asked to comment on a draft health services/systems and population/public health theme and topic list, to identify what is missing and what needs to be prioritized. This initial draft theme and topic list is based on a preliminary scan of mental health and addiction priorities already identified in the province.

Face-to-face consultations are taking place in Thunder Bay, London, Ottawa and Toronto, from mid-June to mid-July. Consultations are also taking place via video-conference, across sites in northern and southern Ontario.

Dr. Paula Goering with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and who initiated OMHAKEN, comments, "By consulting with a diversity of research users and researchers, not only will we jointly create a research agenda, but we will also further strengthen the relationships between users of research and scientists that are so important to facilitating the use of research in the mental health and addictions systems."

It is anticipated that, eventually, results of Creating Together will benefit consumer/survivors and family members by developing the knowledge to create stronger mental health and addictions systems.

\* Addictions includes abuse and dependence on substances such as alcohol, drugs and tobacco; problem gambling; as well as process addictions such as video gaming

**OMHAKEN**

The following Co-Sponsors and Supporters are partnering with OMHAKEN on the Creating Together project.

**Co-Sponsors** (Co-Sponsors have agreed to use the results of the process in some way to influence their own research activities):

- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Ontario HIV Treatment Network
- Rainbow Health Ontario
- Schizophrenia Society of Ontario
- Seniors Health Research Transfer Network

**Supporters** (Supporters are organizations that support the Creating Together process in various ways):

- Addictions Ontario
- Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario
- Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario
- Ontario Common Assessment of Need
- Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addictions Programs
- Ontario Mental Health Foundation
- Ontario Peer Development Initiative
- Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

For more information on Creating Together, visit [www.creatingtogether.net](http://www.creatingtogether.net), or contact Nandini Saxena, Communications Associate, 416-535-8501 ext. 6465, email: [Nandini\\_saxena@camh.net](mailto:Nandini_saxena@camh.net)