



# PRIMARY HEALTH CARE *A Framework That Fits*



## Principles Guiding Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The work of the Enhancing Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Primary Health Care (EICP) Initiative is focused on how to create the conditions for health care providers everywhere in Canada to work together in the most effective and efficient way, so they can produce the best health outcomes for their patients and clients.

The EICP Initiative is funded by Health Canada's Primary Health Care Transition Fund and has a mandate to produce a final set of **guiding principles and a framework** for interdisciplinary collaboration by the spring of 2006. It is hoped that the principles and framework will encourage health care professions and governments to remove impediments to collaboration and reform the primary health care system in Canada accordingly.

As the EICP Initiative proceeds with its consultations and research, the principles and the framework for interdisciplinary collaboration in primary health care come into sharper focus.

At this early stage, the Initiative has developed a 'snapshot' of the EICP **principles** to convey a sense of what we've heard and learned so far about what is required to build a primary health care system in Canada that encourages teamwork among front-line, primary health care professionals. This snapshot is based on input to date from primary health care providers and the public, literature reviews and research reports. **The EICP Initiative remains open, however, to new and different input.**

Like any snapshot, this is a **picture in time**, and future EICP consultations will further refine and amend these core principles, leading to recommendations about how to encourage and sustain interdisciplinary collaboration at the primary health care level.

## A Snapshot of the EICP Principles (December 2004)

These **principles** reflect the shared values that all parties agree must create a foundation for interdisciplinary collaboration in primary health care. EICP principles will guide and inspire all those devoted to encouraging more collaboration in primary health care in Canada. Again, this early snapshot is meant to generate further dialogue and information-sharing.

Right now, the snapshot shows us that interdisciplinary collaboration in primary health care in Canada is guided by the following principles:

- Shared, common vision, values and philosophy
- Climate of trust, respect, shared decision-making, mutual support and flexibility
- Respect for the autonomous choice of the client; respect for the dignity of the individual; commitment to the values of acceptance; self-determination and respect
- Accessibility to the appropriate health professional at the right time and in the right place
- A population health approach that addresses the determinants of health and needs of the population
- Balance between the work and non-work time of professionals (work-life balance)
- Accessibility (via the provision of 24/7 service, access to the right provider at the right time and place, no physical or financial barriers)

*NB: This snapshot of the EICP Principles is a companion to a snapshot of EICP Framework Elements.*

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