



ENHANCING  
INTERDISCIPLINARY  
COLLABORATION IN  
PRIMARY HEALTH  
CARE INITIATIVE

## Teamwork: E-news from the Enhancing Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Primary Health Care (EICP) Initiative

### Letter from the Steering Committee

The pace has not slowed for the EICP Initiative, and we have much to report.

First, we are about to publish **research** about the workable options associated with interdisciplinary collaboration among primary health care professions on the front line of health care—care providers such as physicians, nurses, dietitians, occupational therapists, pharmacists, psychologists, physiotherapists, social workers, speech-language pathologists and audiologists. As our research reports are completed they will be posted on the EICP web site ([www.eicp-acis.ca](http://www.eicp-acis.ca)).

We've also posted reports based on our first wave of **small group consultations** with the public and health care providers in the early autumn. If you only have a minute, read the **National Synopsis** that rolls up the findings from those consultations. You will see that we made quite a lot of progress as we sought input from providers, and their patients and clients, about the fundamental principles and framework elements that will support more interdisciplinary collaboration. You can't beat input from real people, with real experiences!

A companion to these reports is the **Workbook Analysis**, which is based on detailed workbooks completed by health care providers. All of these reports are posted at [www.eicp-acis.ca](http://www.eicp-acis.ca).

We've also launched **two on-line surveys**—one designed for **the public** and the other for **health care providers**. Both will tell us more about real-life experiences, good and bad, with primary health care delivery and attitudes about moving toward more collaboration among health care professionals.

In the late autumn, we were back out in the field, extending our reach and engaging more people in the health care sector via a series of **regional workshops**. We wanted to see if we are still on the right track, especially vis-à-vis our foundation pieces—the principles and the framework for interdisciplinary collaboration in primary health care in Canada.

Information and perspectives are pouring in and we are busy synthesizing all we've heard and learned. We hope you will keep an eye on our progress.

### EICP Steering Committee

- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
- Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
- Canadian Medical Association
- Canadian Nurses Association
- Canadian Pharmacists Association
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association
- Canadian Psychological Association
- College of Family Physicians of Canada
- Canadian Coalition on Enhancing Preventative Practices of Health Professionals
- Dietitians of Canada



The Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh, Minister of Health, speaks to the EICP Leaders' Forum in December

The EICP Steering Committee includes: Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, Canadian Association of Social Workers, Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, Canadian Coalition on Enhancing Preventative Practices of Health Professionals, Canadian Nurses Association, Canadian Pharmacists Association, Canadian Physiotherapy Association, Canadian Psychological Association, College of Family Physicians of Canada and Dietitians of Canada.

## EICP Principles and Framework

As the EICP Initiative proceeds with its consultations and research, the principles and the framework are coming into sharper focus.

At this early stage, the Initiative has developed a "**snapshot**" of the EICP principles and framework to convey a sense of what might be required for Canada to build a primary health care system that values and encourages interdisciplinary collaboration. This snapshot is based on input from primary health care providers and the public, literature reviews and research reports. The EICP Initiative remains open, however, to new input. [Click here to have a look at our snapshot documents.](#) [Click here to have a look at our snapshot documents.](#)

## Spotlight on Collaboration

Rashna Batliwalla is an Ottawa community pharmacist about to work much more closely with a very important part of the community: its family practice physicians.

"My responsibilities will be as a non-dispensing pharmacist at the Riverside Family Health Network," explains Batliwalla. "The eight family doctors there will be able to refer particular problem patients to me and I can identify drug-related problems."

While such arrangements exist only sporadically in Canada, Batliwalla is among seven Ontario pharmacists embarking part-time in the next several weeks on an initial year-long trial called IMPACT – Integrating Family Medicine and Pharmacy to Advance Primary Care Therapeutics.

(To read the rest of this story, visit our web site at [www.eicp-acis.ca](http://www.eicp-acis.ca) and look for the Spotlight on Collaboration).



## What's New?

### Two New Surveys for Health Care Providers and the Public

The EICP Initiative has posted two on-line surveys to encourage input from health care providers and the public about their experiences with interdisciplinary collaboration. The two distinct [surveys](#) will be accessible until March 24 2005 at [www.eicp-acis.ca](http://www.eicp-acis.ca).

These on-line surveys are key components of the EICP research and consultation program and will provide quantitative findings that complement recent EICP face-to-face consultations with health care professionals, and their patients and clients, across Canada.

Share your experiences today—and forward this link to others you know who have experience in interdisciplinary collaboration.

### Regional Workshops

The EICP Initiative has completed a series of regional workshops to validate findings from our earlier work. This time, we invited policy-makers, health administrators and people from provincial and territorial governments to join us. The results from these consultations will further refine the principles and framework for interdisciplinary collaboration.

## What's Ahead?

### Barrier/Enabling Factors Task Groups

In the new year, the EICP Initiative will take a more targeted approach to its consultations via Barrier/Enabling Factors task groups. This consultative exercise will focus on the specific issues that can encourage or stand in the way of collaboration in primary health care. Participants with specific expertise will be invited to contribute to task groups focused on the following topics:

- Liability/risk management
- Funding
- Electronic health records
- Regulatory factors
- Health human resources

## Get Involved

All Canadians have a stake in this dialogue about primary health care transformation. You can provide your comments, complete an on-line survey or become more informed about the trends in interdisciplinary collaboration. Check out our web site at [www.eicp-acis.ca](http://www.eicp-acis.ca).



## For More Information

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