

# **Toolbox Sessions**

**WORKSHOP SUMMARIES  
&  
PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

**ONTARIO HEALTH PROMOTION  
SUMMER SCHOOL  
JUNE 23- 25, 2008**

***HEALTH PROMOTION UNDER PRESSURE:  
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ACTION***

**CENTRE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION  
University of Toronto**

***THERE ARE TWO TOOLBOX SERIES (A AND B)  
PARTICIPANTS ARE ASKED TO REGISTER FOR 1 TOOLBOX  
(ONLY) IN SERIES A (MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2008, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)  
AND 1 TOOLBOX (ONLY) IN SERIES B  
(TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)  
(All are welcome to attend First Peoples' Stream Toolboxes)***

**SERIES A: MONDAY, JUNE 23, 3:30 – 5:00 P.M.**

**TOOLBOX SERIES A - FIRST PEOPLES' STREAM**

*« Good Vibrations = Transformation  
(Learn and Practice an Aboriginal Approach to Wellness) »*

Brenda MacIntyre, Speaker, Performer, Artist

**SUMMARY:** Find out how Aboriginal traditional teachings and healing practices can help you transform yourself and your community. Experience the benefits firsthand and take away solid tools for change.

Learn about the health benefits of: Storytelling, Experiential Learning, Circles, Mentoring, Singing, Drumming and more in this highly interactive, inclusive and engaging circle!

**PRESENTER'S BIOGRAPHY: Brenda MacIntyre** a.k.a. Medicine Song Woman, is a world class solo singer, inspirational speaker, healer and artist. Brenda has had reports from fans and clients of physical, emotional and psychological healing as well as heightened spiritual connection. Healing benefits range from depression relief to relaxation to "listening to your song saved my life."

Brenda does sound healing sessions, hand drumming/roots/soul performances, and presentations on drumming, leadership, confidence-building and healing. Her clients and fans include individuals, Aboriginal communities, business teams, universities, schools and health professionals. Based in Toronto, she has performed and been featured nationally on MuchMusic, APTN, OMNI, Vision and Global.

Her career began with a hit on a Florida radio station and a single on a Juno award-winning CD, leading to a nomination for a Canadian Reggae Music Award. She has performed and spoken across Canada for diverse audiences such as the Niagara Folk Arts Festival, Bank of Montreal, University of Brandon, the Okanagan Nation and the Salmon Arm Roots & Blues Festival in BC.

In 2007, Brenda was named Toronto's Aboriginal Businesswoman of the Year and the #1 Canadian Artist in Neo-Soul on MySpace.com. Since her latest healing/drumming CD *Spirit Connection* was released and nominated for an Aboriginal People's Choice Award, Brenda has studied and been practicing visionary methods of sound healing through her voice and drum.

[www.brendamacintyre.com](http://www.brendamacintyre.com)    [www.MySpace.com/brendamacintyre](http://www.MySpace.com/brendamacintyre)

<b>TOOLBOX SERIES A – FIRST PEOPLES’ STREAM</b>	
<i>Nmakaandjiiwin (Finding My Way) – Success Stories</i>	
Dorothy Peters (Coordinator, Training Unit) with Michele Lonechild, John Pelletier, Brad Stone	Anishnawbe Health Toronto
Renée Leblanc, Health Promotion Student, Laurentian University, Sudbury (Member of FPPC)	

**SUMMARY:** Mentoring our youth is an important part of strengthening community action to prepare for times of crisis. Aboriginal youth are our future and the fastest growing demographic. It is critical that we assist them with job skills, education and training so they can contribute to the community infrastructure and be prepared in times of crisis.

*This session will provide also provide perspectives from a successful urban Youth program: 'Finding My Way'. Personal perspectives will also be heard from three youth participants.*

**Anishnawbe Health Toronto** demonstrates an enduring commitment to all of the Aboriginal homeless population in Toronto. This unique program focuses on Aboriginal youth and it runs for a one-year period. There are 6 students in the program. One of the formidable obstacles facing homeless Aboriginal youth is securing and sustaining employment. Most have had little formal education or training, a broken work history and more often than not, a criminal record. Some have limited reading and writing skills or possess a limited understanding of their history, identity, and how history impacts their lives. For many homeless Aboriginal youth to obtain and sustain employment, they require a “Circle of Care” which includes “supportive employment” which is encouraged throughout the Finding My Way program. Throughout the year, the FMW program engages 6 students who are given the opportunity to learn and work in a comfortable, non-threatening environment with their peers. They develop and enhance their understanding and knowledge of Aboriginal history, culture, ceremonies and are assigned Traditional counsellors. They learn about homelessness and it relates to Aboriginal people, develop their communication skills and experience work placements at other Native organizations. The students receive a certificate upon graduation identifying the components of the program which include Traditional Teachings, Communications, Homeless Studies, Aboriginal Studies, Art Expression and GED preparation. The success stories will be presented by two or three students that have graduated from the program and have move on in their lives.

**PRESENTERS’ BIOGRAPHIES:**

**Dorothy Peters:** Coordinator, Training Unit Anishnawbe Health Toronto. I am Ojibway from Northern Ontario. I am involved in my culture, I speak the language and enjoy working with Aboriginal youth.

**Michele Lonechild** will be talking about her success story including some of the barriers she had to overcome. She is a former Finding My Way student. She is 23 years old from White Bear First Nations, Saskatchewan.

**Brad Stone** will be talking about his success story. Brad is 27 years old, from White Cap Dakota First Nation. Brad is a former student of the FMW program.

**John Pelletier** is 26 years old from the Cote First Nations and he will talk about his success story. John is a former student of the FMW program.

*These are exceptional young Aboriginal people who have accessed the program at AHT and have made/still making improvements in their lives. They are on their journey to self-care, balanced well-being and independence.*

**Renée Leblanc** is a third year health Promotion Student at Laurentian University in Sudbury. She is from Sturgeon Falls ON. and has Ojibwa Aboriginal ancestry from Nipissing First Nation. Renée wishes to

complete her Bachelors' Degree in Physical Education and Health with electives in Native Studies. Her field of interest is to work in the Aboriginal community as a future Health Promoter. In 2006, she was employed at the Sudbury & District Health Unit as a summer student and was one of the speakers for the Aboriginal voices at the Sudbury Children's Water Festival. In 2007, she was funded by the Aboriginal Recruitment Coordination Office (ARCO) to work as a summer student in the Injury, Focus and Tobacco team in the Environmental Health Division at the Sudbury & District Health Unit. Her position gave her the opportunity to promote health to the Aboriginal people in an urban setting. She hopes to broaden her knowledge and obtain a degree of expertise in public health.

On her spare time, Renée enjoys being with her family and friends and staying involved in extracurricular activities; she practices Muai Thai Martial Art, plays volleyball and likes to swim. In addition, Renée is a 3rd year health promotion representative for the Laurentian University Human Kinetic student council, a research assistant for one of her professors and a lifeguard swimming instructor at the Laurentian University Gold pool. She is honoured to be the youth representative for the Aboriginal Stream of the 2008 Ontario Health Promotion Summer School.

<b>TOOLBOX SERIES A – GENERAL STREAM</b>	
<i>« Youth Voices Research: Youth Engagement through Creative Expression and Media Arts »</i>	
Charlotte Lombardo, Project Manager, Youth Voices, Youth Engagement Unit	Centre for Health Promotion, University of Toronto
Cameron Norman, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences & Director of Evaluation, Peter A. Silverman Global e-Learning Program	University of Toronto
Shane Joseph, Long-term Youth Advisor, Youth Voices	Centre for Health Promotion, University of Toronto

**SUMMARY:** Youth Voices seeks to promote Youth Engagement, Expression, Empowerment and Exchange through youth-driven media and participatory research. Our focus is on the use of media arts and creative approaches (ex. Photovoice) for issue identification, community development and global education. The Youth Voices Process has been applied in diverse settings across Ontario and internationally, for broad community capacity-building, and to address specific issues such as Tobacco, Food Systems and HIV vulnerability.

In a highly participatory workshop, key Youth Voices outcomes and learning will be explored, with a focus on core competencies of media-arts based youth engagement. Reflections will be focused around a case study of our projects Smoke Free World, a youth-driven educational project on Globalization and the Tobacco Industry, and The Smoking Zine, an interactive website for smoking prevention and cessation.

After attending this presentation participants will be able to:

- Apply the Youth Voices Process to their context/setting
- Describe the role of media-arts for youth engagement
- Discuss the opportunities and challenges of youth media projects

**PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES:** **Charlotte Lombardo** is the Project Manager of Youth Voices, the Youth Engagement Unit of the Centre for Health Promotion. Charlotte has extensive front-line experience designing, facilitating and evaluating youth-driven programming, with a focus on creative and arts-based approaches, in Ontario, as well as in Israel/Palestine, Serbia and Bosnia Herzegovina. Charlotte has also served as a youth engagement consultant for the UNESCO associated schools project, the Arts Network for Children and Youth, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

**Cameron Norman** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Toronto and the Director of Evaluation for the Peter A. Silverman Global e-Learning Program. Dr. Norman's research focuses on public engagement and community development for health using information technology. One of the core areas of his research program focuses on literacy assessment and

training of consumers in using the Internet for health. He is also actively researching the use of communities of practice to promote collaborative learning and knowledge translation.

**Shane Joseph** is a long-term Youth Advisor with Youth Voices. Shane was a founding member of the Smoke Free World project, which focuses on the tobacco industry and issues of global equity and globalization. As part of the Smoke Free World youth team, Shane has helped research and design an educational website on global tobacco issues, and delivered interactive workshops to over 1000 young people across Ontario.

TOOLBOX SERIES A – GENERAL STREAM	
« <i>HIV: Lessons from the Frontline</i> »	
Paul McCarty-Johnston, HIV Prevention Resource Development Coordinator	AIDS Committee of London

**SUMMARY:** This interactive workshop will reflect the on-going and necessary changes/evolution of frontline HIV prevention work in the classroom setting from basics to reflections on the Social Determinants of Health.

**PRESENTER’S BIOGRAPHY:** Paul has been working in HIV prevention and education for over 20 years. He completed his B.F.A. and B.Ed. in 1994 and an Interdisciplinary Studies M.A. in 1997 at York University. Paul’s Master’s Thesis, entitled “Sero-logues: ”A Collaborative Approach to AIDS Photographic Representation” addressed the deliberate placement of individuals into a continuum of blame and the need for self-reflection/self-direction in photographic representation.

While at York University Paul worked in the Health Education and Promotion office as Peer Education Coordinator and later as Interim Manager. For the past seven years Paul has worked on the Prevention Services team at the AIDS Committee of London, focusing on HIV prevention among men who have sex with men (MSM).

TOOLBOX SERIES A – GENERAL STREAM	
« <i>Population Health Information: Its Role in Health Promotion and Community Action</i> »	
Elizabeth (Lisa) Votta, Program Lead, Reports and Analysis	Canadian Population Health Information

**SUMMARY:** A number of factors affect the health and well being of Canadians including social, economic, cultural and physical environments; interactions between individual biology and behaviours; and health services. A population health approach addresses this range of individual and collective factors known as *determinants of health*. It focuses on how these determinants are interrelated and associated with long-term health, explores health disparities, and applies the resulting knowledge to developing and implementing policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of populations.

This ‘toolbox’ session will introduce the concept of population health, including definitions, key concepts and goals. The focus of a population health approach is broader than trying to change the behaviour of individuals. A population health approach to health aims to improve the health of the entire population and to reduce health inequities among population groups whose health is poorer than that of the general population.

Although Canadians are generally healthier and living longer than at any point in history, there are differences in health status within the Canadian population and between groups of Canadians. Some segments of the population are at higher-risk than others for poor physical health outcomes and/or poor mental health outcomes, particularly in response to health crises. Current health crises or behaviours affecting Canadians’ health include: homelessness, injury, criminal activity, obesity and physical inactivity, to name a few. Within the context of these outcomes and behaviours, this session will explore the role of population health information, including the determinants of health, different levels of geographical data,

intervention research, and evidence-based information in promoting health and strengthening community action.

**PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Elizabeth Votta** holds the position of Program Lead, Reports and Analysis with the Canadian Population Health Initiative (CPHI) of the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Dr. Votta holds a PhD in Psychology, which she obtained from Carleton University in 2001. Her dissertation explored the impact of coping style, negative life events, self-esteem and social support on the psychological adjustment of homeless adolescent males. She has since replicated this work with homeless adolescent females. Prior to taking on her position at the CIHI, Dr. Votta held two postdoctoral fellowships during which she pursued her research interests in the fields of injury prevention, health disparities, and youth homelessness.

In her position as Program Lead, Dr. Votta is the Project Manager for the production of CPHI's *Improving the Health of Canadians* Reports. These reports examine what we know about factors that affect the health of Canadians, ways to improve our health and relevant options for evidence-based policy choices. CPHI's 2005-2006 report series included *Improving the Health of Young Canadians* (released October 2005); *Promoting Healthy Weights* (released February 2006); and *An Introduction to Health in Urban Places* (released November 2006).

CPHI's theme areas for 2007-2010 are mental health and resilience, place and health (built environment), reducing gaps in health, and healthy weights. CPHI is currently working on three reports with a mental health focus. The first report, *Mental Health and Homelessness*, was released in August 2007. The second, which will look at mental health, delinquency and criminal activity, will be released in April 2008. The final report on positive mental health will be released in the winter of 2009.

<b>TOOLBOX SERIES A – GENERAL STREAM</b>	
<i>« Building from the Ground Up – Health Promotion and Emergency Management »</i>	
Hafeez Bassirullah, Senior Policy Advisor, Emergency Management Unit	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

**SUMMARY:** What is the role of health promotion in responding to communities in crisis or in emergencies? Resilient communities need an organized social network in order to overcome the challenges posed by emergencies and disasters. This session will outline how emergency management is organized in Ontario and the specific roles of the health sector and will examine how health promoters can contribute to strengthening communities before and during emergencies.

**BIOGRAPHY:** To follow

## SERIES B: TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 3:30 – 5:00 P.M.

<b>TOOLBOX SERIES B – FIRST PEOPLES' STREAM</b>	
<i>« Anishnabek Biimaadziwin (Living the Good Life) »</i>	
Eddy Robinson	Morningstar River Performers

**SUMMARY:** In this toolbox session, Eddy will speak to the participants on how important the culture of the Anishnabek people is, the participants will be enlightened on how the culture can change your lifestyle by promoting healthy choices and incorporating teachings into our lives to keep us focused on what is important. Eddy will share how singing has opened the doors for ceremonies, the ceremonies opened the doors to the sweat lodge, the sweat lodge opened the doors to the teachings, and life goes onto many more teachings. Life is a gift and should be treated as such.

**PRESENTER'S BIOGRAPHY:** Originating from Garden River and Missanabie Cree First Nations, **Eddy Robinson** is an Ojibway/Cree born and raised in Toronto. He is a member of the Crane Clan, a leadership clan for the Anishnabek people. Singing traditional pow wow music has been Eddy's passion since he was 15 years old. "Singing has taken me places I would not have gone to otherwise; it introduced me to my culture and that is a gift I will have for a lifetime." Eddy performs with MorningStar River and has recorded his music on the CD "Oldskool Mentality."

<b>TOOLBOX SERIES B - FIRST PEOPLES' STREAM</b>	
<i>« Aboriginal Health Human Resources in Ontario »</i>	
Billie-Jean Benisty, Senior Policy Advisor	First Nations and Inuit Health (FNIH), Health Canada

**SUMMARY:** Recent studies have shown that all jurisdictions in Canada are experiencing shortages of health care providers. These studies have clearly demonstrated that without concerted efforts to increase the number of students entering into health professions, the health care system will be in a state of serious shortage within the next decade.

In 2004, \$100 million in federal funds were committed to specifically target First Nations, Inuit and Metis health human resource issues, to begin to address the acute shortage of First Nations, Inuit and Metis health care providers, and to find ways to make the health care system more responsive to the needs of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people.

This session will focus on the Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI) in Ontario. What is the current state of health human resources serving Ontario First Nations and Aboriginal communities? In this interactive session participants will explore what is being done by Health Canada and Chiefs of Ontario

to address health human resources in Ontario First Nations and Aboriginal communities. Participants will have an opportunity to explore and discuss possible solutions and new, innovative approaches.

**PRESENTER’S BIOGRAPHY:** Billie earned her Bachelors of Science in Nursing at the University of Ottawa where she did a specialization in Public Health. After briefly working with the Ottawa Health Department as a researcher she soon entered the federal government at Health Canada as a Program Manager in the Population and Public Health Branch for the Children and Youth Division. Working mainly on the development of the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Initiative she conducted national consultations representing the Department, led the Health Professionals Advisory Committee on diagnosis and worked with the provinces and territories on the launch of a joint national social marketing campaign. She also has a number of years experience in the area of policy development, for example on the development of the National Immunization Strategy, working in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officers of Health across the country.

In more recent years she has been a Senior Policy Analyst with the Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the Public Health Agency of Canada working on the development of the Integrated Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Strategy and providing policy support and advice in the areas of diabetes, cancer, and heart health. With almost 10 years of experience in the federal government and a background in both public health and policy she is now working as the Policy Manager for the Ontario Regional Office at Health Canada – First Nations and Inuit Health program. Her main responsibilities include leading the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund, the Aboriginal Health and Human Resources Initiative for the Ontario Region, and the Indian and Inuit Health Careers Program as well as handling assistance on cross-jurisdictional negotiations, briefings and correspondences.

As a nurse with a keen interest in public health and policy she hopes to continue to help bridge the gap between political and health service delivery communities for the Ontario Region.

<b>TOOLBOX SERIES B - FIRST PEOPLES’ STREAM</b>	
<i>« Attitude to Survival »</i>	
Tony Jocko, Health Policy Analyst	Union of Ontario Indians

**SUMMARY:** In this interactive session, we will explore ways of ‘taking responsibility for our own survival’. The most crucial time of any emergency response is the first 72 hours post incident. The SARS experience highlighted that most emergency planning focused on urban-based needs. In our groundwork assessment of the state of emergency preparedness in our First Nations communities, we found that there was a wide variance in the plans in place, as well as the emergency resources available. The power outages and the windstorm on Manitoulin Island in recent summers underlined the need for emergency generators and community kitchens to meet the basic needs of our members in any community emergency. Northern communities would actually be better prepared to survive as their isolation would serve as a natural barrier to the spread of disease, as well as they can still ‘Go back to the Land’ very easily in order to survive.

What about you and your community? Can you answer a resounding ‘Yes’ to surviving any natural or manmade disaster?

Join us for this session and leaving feeling empowered to ensure the well-being and safety of your family in any community disaster.

**PRESENTER’S BIOGRAPHY:** Tony Jocko's career in health care has spanned close to thirty years. He was employed sixteen years in increasingly responsible areas of patient care/management as a Critical Care Flight Paramedic on the MOHLTC air ambulance helicopter based in Sudbury, from 1988-2000. He then moved into management as the Manager North East for Air Ambulance Operations. When the province privatized the air ambulance sector, he remained with the ministry as a field manager, and Aboriginal Coordinator. Tony was also part of a key team that dealt with the Anthrax and SARS outbreaks in southern Ontario.



Tony holds an Honour's Diploma in Ambulance and Emergency Care Management from Humber College. For the past three years he has been employed by the Union of Ontario Indians as Health Policy Analyst, and is responsible for the Pandemic Flu Community Planning file.

His family came from Golden Lake (Algonquins of Pikwakanagan) but he grew up in Mattawa.

<b>TOOLBOX SERIES B - GENERAL STREAM</b>
« <i>Communities in Crisis Working for Change: The Use of Film as a Tool for Education and Action</i> »
Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg, Environmental Health, Global Education and Film Consultant, Volunteer Education Coordinator, Women's Healthy Environments Network
Ada Lockeridge, Activist, Aamjinaang Reserve, Sarnia

**SUMMARY:** Presenters will show the film **TOXIC TRESPASS** (an NFB co-production about children's health and the environment). This film addresses issues communities in environmental distress are facing and illustrates how activists, scientists and doctors are playing a part in dealing with these concerns in their communities and workplaces. Questions are raised about consumer products and wasteful habits that toxic processes create and highlights roles we can all play in understanding and promoting a safer healthier world.

These issues are common in many locations in North America and increasingly so in the South, prompting ordinary citizens to become educated and active in challenging the status quo.

The educational accompanying guide, "Taking Action on Children's Health and the Environment" is full of resources, websites and suggestions for the use of film as a tool for education for social change related to these critical themes. It and other relevant resources will be available at the session.

**PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES:**

**Ada Lockeridge** is a community researcher, educator and activist on the Aamjiwnaang First Nation in Sarnia, Ontario which is surrounded by Canada's largest, most polluting petrochemical industry. Faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges, she chairs the Reserve's Health and Environment Committee, working with other members of the community, scientists and physicians to call attention to the health impacts of the toxic emissions and seek means to prevent them.

Working together with environmental health scientists, she has been a principal researcher on various community health studies including The Body Mapping Health Study, The Gender Ratio Health Study (with Dr. Constance Mackenzie and Margaret Keith PhD, published in Environmental Health Perspectives) and the Bucket Brigade Project, a study to sample the contaminants in the air in the community.

Due to this work, there has been international attention focused on the health of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation and in March of this year, the Health and Environment Committee held an environmental health symposium in Sarnia to be attended by international scientists and health professionals. Here, the results of these studies were presented and the symposium will discuss strategies for more effective means of protecting the health of community members and build a network of environmental health and ecojustice activists.

Ada is featured in the documentary, "Toxic Trespass" on children's health and the environment (co-production with the National Film Board of Canada as well as several other relevant films).

She is the mother of two children (girls) and in her former work was a carpenter's helper and a home care provider.

**Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg**, PhD, holds a Masters in Environmental Studies (York University) and a PhD (University of Toronto). An education and film consultant, she researches, writes and speaks on

environmental health, equality, social, economic and environmental justice, peace and energy issues. She has worked with the National Film Board, school boards, non governmental organizations, health professional and policy groups on these issues. She was principle research consultant and associate producer of the documentary video, **Exposure: Environmental Links to Breast Cancer** and researcher/writer of the accompanying guidebook Taking Action for a Healthy Future. She has led numerous training trainers workshops using these materials as educational tools. She has recently researched and produced **Toxic Trespass**, a documentary on children's health and the environment as a co production with the National Film Board of Canada and has co-written the accompanying educational resource guide, Taking Action on Children's Health and the Environment.

Volunteer Education Coordinator of the Women's Healthy Environments Network (WHEN), she teaches **Environmental Health, Transformative Higher Education and Policy Change: Education for Social and Ecosystem Healing** at OISE/UT. She was director of Les femmes s'en melent: Making a World of Difference: A Directory of Women in Canada Specializing in Global Issues (development, environment, peace and related social justice and economic issues); was the Development and Disarmament Coordinator of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (1986-88); is affiliated with: WHEN, Prevent Cancer Now; the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition Environmental and Occupational working group; Energy -Vision Network; the Saunders-Matthey Cancer Prevention Coalition (formerly the Breast Cancer Prevention Coalition), Voice of Women for Peace, the Cancer Prevention Group of the Centre for Health Promotion, University of Toronto; the 9th International Women and Health Meeting, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, Physicians for Global Survival, National Network on Environments and Women's Health, Centre of Excellence (NNEWH), York University (1999-2004), Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education. She is Co editor (with George Dei and Budd Hall) of Indigenous Knowleges: Multiple Readings of Our World, University of Toronto Press (2000).

Her awards include:

- Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, a Governor General of Canada Award;
- United Nations Environmental Program Award (UNEP) for Environmental Stewardship
- Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Award for Cancer Prevention.
- Biophilia (Love of Life) Award of the Jazzpur Society of Windsor
- 2005 Woman of the Year Award, American Biographical Institute

She is mother of Pamela Rosenberg Vennin and Matthew Jay Rosenberg and grandmother of Rosie Annabelle, Sydney Helena and Magali Elianne Vennin.

<b>TOOLBOX SERIES B - GENERAL STREAM</b>	
<i>«Working in the Context of an Epidemic »</i>	
Sylvie Boulet, Health Promotion Consultant, Prevent Stroke	Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse

**SUMMARY:** You are urgently called by the program director to respond to a complex issue affecting individuals and your community as a whole - obesity. Epidemiologic data, programs reports and evaluation are available, but somehow you know that you need something else... who else should be involved, how to tackle this as a whole or in parts, and where to begin.

In this interactive session, we will look at obesity in the context of the socio-economic determinants of health. More than ever, we are being asked to strengthen our communities and help to change the conditions that contribute to obesity.

After this session, the participants will be able to:

- understand obesity in the context of social determinants of health,
- apply the principles of community capacity building,

- relate to different models of community engagement, e.g. Connect the dots, community empowerment/capacity building
- feel confident that they can contribute to community based solutions

**PRESENTER’S BIOGRAPHY: Sylvie Boulet** is a bilingual Health Promotion Consultant with Prevent Stroke. Sylvie has a Masters in Health Sciences - Community Nutrition, two bachelor degrees in food science and social work and a back ground in adult education. Sylvie started her career 22 years ago first as a program coordinator, social worker, adult educator, researcher and facilitator and then in the nutrition field as a dietitian and professor of nutrition at 2 post secondary organizations. Her experience encompasses the fields of non-profit organizations as well as clinical institutions and a community health centres. Strengths include strong skills in the area of group facilitation, activity/group coordination.

<b>TOOLBOX SERIES B - GENERAL STREAM</b>	
<i>« Panic, Indifference and Moving On: Substance Use, Systems, Citizens and Cross-Sectoral Collaboration »</i>	
Michael Parkinson, Community Engagement Coordinator	Waterloo Region Community Safety & Crime Prevention Council

**SUMMARY:**

*“The definition of stupidity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” — Albert Einstein*

Despite the pervasiveness and persistence of (problematic) substance use there is little in the way of intentional, multi-sectoral, strategic planning and programming. Many responses look like those developed in the early 1900s but times have changed and the evidence base suggests a much stronger role for health, community and social systems and those with lived experience. Municipal Integrated Drugs Strategies incorporate 4 components: - prevention/education -harm reduction -treatment -criminal justice

Drugs Strategies work to reduce and/or prevent death, disease and other harms while working to prevent or delay the on-set of substance use by providing a roadmap. This provocative, multi-media presentation will provide a brief history of Canadian narcotics, current approaches from around the world and clues for health professionals and others.

Please visit: [www.inthemindseye.ca](http://www.inthemindseye.ca).

**PRESENTER’S BIOGRAPHY: Michael Parkinson** is the Community Engagement Coordinator with The Waterloo Region Community Safety & Crime Prevention Council. The Council is a 29 member, multi-sectoral initiative that works to address the risk factors for crime through social development by engaging and integrating systems and neighbourhoods.

Michael has worked in a variety of direct service and community and policy development initiatives. He is currently developing a drugs strategy for Waterloo Region among a number of other related initiatives, including facilitating the establishment of a local drug users group, a harm reduction network and a unique 60 event film and workshop series called In The Mind's Eye 2007: Issues of Substance Use in Film + Forum.

<b>TOOLBOX SERIES B - GENERAL STREAM</b>	
<i>« Care for the Caregiver in Times of Crisis »</i>	
Cindy Rose, Mental Health Nurse/ Health Promotion Consultant, Vicarious Trauma	Toronto Public Health
Barb Switzer, Psychosocial Response Coordinator,	

**SUMMARY:** During times of crisis and emergency response staff are often so overwhelmed with attending to the crisis that care for the self goes by the wayside. However, it is at these primed times that staff are ever more vulnerable to the potential effects of vicarious trauma (VT) as they listen to the stories and attend to the needs of populations who have been affected by the crisis. Organizations which have emergency response as part of their mandate need to consider the risk for occupational stress reactions such as VT and what strategies can be implemented and maintained to help ameliorate these effects.

As part of this toolbox session we will discuss what a review of the literature on VT indicates are promising strategies for its management in helping professionals as well as how this occupational risk is being addressed at Toronto Public Health.

**PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

**Cindy Rose:** is a Mental Health Nurse Consultant at Toronto Public Health. Cindy worked 2 years as on a special project to address vicarious trauma amongst the Healthy Family Service Area at Toronto Public Health. Cindy completed a literature review on organizational strategies for the management of vicarious trauma in the helping professions and is looking at how they may be incorporated at Toronto Public Health. In the fall of 2007 Cindy also completed an educational strategy which saw all managers in the Healthy Family Service Area and 305 front line Healthy Families Staff from various disciplines attend an all day workshop on vicarious trauma and its management in our lives as helping professionals.

**Barbara Switzer** is an Emergency Planning Coordinator for Toronto Public Health. She is the City-wide Coordinator of the Community Crisis Intervention & Support Team (CCIST) team (TPH internal team) and Coordinator of Psychosocial Emergency Response and Recovery Services team (PERRS) (external partnership).

As Coordinator of PERRS, Barbara has established a Psychosocial Services planning/steering committee made up of community, government and hospital psychosocial responders and has prepared a Community Emergency Preparedness Response and Recovery Plan. Barbara is currently developing Peer Support Team training for all Toronto Public Health staff.

TOOLBOX SERIES B - GENERAL STREAM	
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« <i>African Rites of Passage: African Canadian Youth, Resistance, Vital Force and Resilience</i> »	
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Kwasi Kafele, Director of Corporate Diversity	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
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**SUMMARY:** This interactive session will provide a context and overview of an innovative approach to building the capacity and resilience of African Canadian youth using a powerful traditional West African methodology, adjusted to the contemporary realities of urban youth life.

**PRESENTER'S BIOGRAPHY:** **Kwasi Kafele** is currently employed at the Centre for Addictions an Mental Health as the Director for Corporate Diversity. He has been a Senior Policy Analyst with the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs as well as Senior Manager with the Ontario Anti-Racism Secretariat, both with the Ontario provincial government. He was also the Executive Director of the Jamaican Canadian Association, the largest African Canadian organization in Canada.

He has worked and volunteered in both the African Canadian and broader equity seeking communities for 30 years. He is a researcher, trainer, conflict mediator, youth advocate, teacher and community organizer. He has lectured and facilitated hundreds of sessions in the Caribbean, Africa, the United States and across Canada. He has also volunteered with young people in subsidised housing communities across Toronto for over 20 years.

Mr. Kafele is the co- founder of the *Health Equity Council*, an umbrella group of representatives of over 40 health agencies in the GTA focused on advancing anti-oppression, anti-racism, equity, access, inclusion,

institutional accountability, cultural competence in clinical care and public policy advocacy in relation to health and marginalized populations.

He is the founder of *Yensomu* a non-profit, community based agency dedicated to supporting children and youth development in West Africa and building youth leadership capacity amongst African Canadian youth in Toronto.

He has taught a certificate course at the **University of Toronto's School of Social Work** on Cultural Competence for Human Service Providers. He currently teaches part of a course on Emerging Leaders at **York University's Schulich School of Business**. Mr. Kafele currently sits on **Centennial College's** Signature Learning Equity Committee.

Mr. Kafele is an apprentice West African traditional Healer practising from the Shrine of Ampeadwa in Akropong, Ashanti, Ghana. He has also received numerous awards for his contributions to social justice in Toronto.

Mr. Kafele has a B.A. from the University of Toronto, an M.A. from the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, and an Advanced Certificate in Executive Leadership from the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto. He is currently pursuing a PhD at York University. The focus of his work is a comparative ethnography of the emotional impact of social stressors like violence, racism, poverty and social exclusion on African Canadian and Ghanaian male youth.

TOOLBOX SERIES B - GENERAL STREAM	
« <i>Housing = Health</i> »	
Deb Schlichter, Executive Director	House of Friendship

**SUMMARY:** The homelessness situation in Canada is really a health crisis. One of the solutions is housing. The workshop will give an overview of homelessness and how it impacts health, as well as provide examples of how housing can help people who are homeless improve their health and well-being.

**PRESENTER'S BIOGRAPHY: Deborah** is the Executive Director of House of Friendship, a multi-service non-profit charitable organization serving over 32,500 low-income men, women, youth and children annually through 17 different residential and community services in Waterloo Region. She has worked at House of Friendship since 1983 in front-line and various supervisory positions and since 1998 as the Executive Director.

Deborah is actively involved in local housing related groups and committees. In the past, she was the Supportive Housing representative on the Social Housing Transition Advisory Committee of Waterloo Region, and the Social Services representative on the Kitchener Downtown Advisory Committee. She is currently involved on the Emergency Shelters Coalition, Waterloo Region Housing Coalition, the Youth Homelessness Coordinating Group, the Waterloo Region Housing and Homelessness Umbrella Group (HHUG), and the Kitchener Downtown Community Collaborative.

At the Provincial level, Deborah is currently serving her third term on the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) Board of Directors, with the first two years as President, and is now the Past-President. She also sits on the Supportive Housing Committee and other committees, and is an instructor for some ONPHA courses. Deborah previously was part of the Housing Provider Advisory Group and the Best Practices Sub-Committee for the Social Housing Services Corporation.

She is also very involved as a volunteer in her community and received the Rogers Oktoberfest Women of the Year Award in 2007 in the Professional category.