

NORTHERN, RURAL & REMOTE HEALTH CONFERENCE

Oct. 6-9, 2017

Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL, Canada



For Immediate Release: September 14, 2017

Northern, Rural, and Remote Health conference on Oct. 6-9, 2017

HAPPY VALLEY-GOOSE BAY, NL – An international forum dedicated to sharing knowledge, experience, and innovations in community health is being held at Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador, October 6-9, 2017. **Northern, Rural, and Remote Health (NRRH)** is an effort to promote and strengthen transdisciplinary dialogue on critical issues affecting the health and health care of rural, Northern, and Indigenous populations in Canada and abroad.

Presented by the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health and the Society for Rural Physicians of Canada, the conference brings together leaders in Indigenous health, health professionals, community workers, governmental representatives, policy and decision-makers, educators, researchers, members of the public, and trainees with an interest in all aspects of health in northern, rural, remote, and Indigenous communities.

The Planning and Scientific Committees are organizing a dynamic scientific, clinical, and social program. The scientific program will include plenary sessions from some of Canada's health leaders and advocates, panel dialogues, clinical and skill-building workshops, and oral and poster research presentations. There will be opportunities for networking and collaboration, along with learning sessions for students and early career investigators.

"Northern, rural and remote regions of Canada are faced with the challenge of providing health services for a dispersed population that has the greatest disparities in health status and potential years of life lost," said Dr. Michael Jong, President of the Canadian Society of Circumpolar Health. "Health providers in these regions are isolated and the southern solutions that are developed in larger urban centres are usually out of context and not suitable. In isolated regions, we often develop our own innovations and solutions out of necessity."

Keynote speakers and special guests include: Natan Obed, president of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; and Dr. John Haggie, Minister of Health and Community Services, Newfoundland and Labrador.

"We are thrilled to be welcoming conference participants to Happy Valley-Goose Bay and to Labrador for this diverse gathering," said Dr. Ashlee Cunsolo, Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee, and Director, Labrador Institute. "Northern, rural, and remote regions are often the frontiers for innovation, creativity, and inspiration in healthcare provision and research, and this conference highlights an impressive program of research, clinical developments, practical applications, and community leadership from which all can learn."

The conference is being planned in coordination with the 10th anniversary of the Trapline Marathon, a grassroots, heritage-oriented road race that brings together communities from across Labrador and beyond. All conference participants are encouraged to get involved in the event as runners, walkers, or volunteers.

The objectives of the conference are:

- Examine the intersections and impact of environmental, social, and political change on health;
- Envision the future design of northern and Indigenous health systems;
- Promote partnerships and knowledge exchange across health and social care sectors;
- Explore local innovations and success in health service delivery and health professional education; and
- Foster dialogue on best practices in research methods and methodologies.

The conference themes include:

- Climate Change and Planetary Health;
- Social Determinants of Indigenous Health;
- The Future of Health System Design and Sovereignty;
- Culture, Gender, and Mental Wellness; and
- Innovations in Rural Clinical Care and Teaching.

The conference is a collaborative effort by health organizations in Labrador. The Planning Committee includes representatives from the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health, the Faculty of Medicine and Labrador Institute of Memorial University, Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority, Movember Canada, Northern Family Medicine Education (NORFAM), the Innu Nation, the Nunatsiavut Government, the NunatuKavut Community Council, the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, and the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

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Background:

The Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health is a charitable organization dedicated to promoting research, exchanging knowledge and fostering greater awareness and responsiveness to the health issues of circumpolar people.

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