

Northern BC Citizen Series Webinars - *Taking Flight Again!*

by Theresa Healy,
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The first year of the *Citizen Series on Health Webinars* has just successfully concluded with the fourth webinar in the inaugural series. The final webinar hosted a panel from across BC speaking to the Healthy Schools movement. Dr. Andrew Macnab from UBC, in Prince George for other meetings, spoke to the success of the oral health program in Hartley Bay, and how the lessons of this health promotion approach of Northern BC has spread to Africa. Joanne Bays spoke to the growing success of the *Farm to School* movement which was first trialed here in Northern BC. Sarah Lockman from the Directorate of Agencies for School Health (DASH) shared the work of the province's Healthy Schools Initiative.

This final webinar demonstrated how far this “little engine that could” has gone. Originally the brainchild of Population Health and BC Healthy Communities’ partnership, the series was initially conceived with a focus on settings where citizens play a role in affecting health outcomes. The webinars invited dialogue from northern communities on specific topics that are critical to improving the health outcomes of northern people, recognizing that community and civic involvement is a cornerstone to healthy people and populations. The popularity and appeal of the webinars has grown, resulting in a commitment for a second series building on the lessons learned the first time around.

“We know people are really anxious for learning opportunities and really appreciate the resources and expertise that the speakers have so generously shared,” said Julie Kerr, Regional Manager for Population Health. She continued, *“...in each seminar we learned more about how we could make these effective and useful to community members, to practitioners, to partner organizations. You can see our success not just the growth of numbers but also in the diversity of people calling in. In fact, we are even attracting callers from across the province, not just the northern health region. Our dream is to see the series become a province wide program.”*

The new series launches on June 28th, 2011 with *“When Local Governments and Health Authorities Say “I do”: Creating Formal Partnerships to Improve Community Health*. As has been the practice, the panel will include strong northern based voices, as well provincial or national leaders in the topic area. All you need is access to a phone and computer with an internet connection.

This is a wonderful opportunity to gather colleagues and interested advocates together to access top flight learning at a very low cost - FREE! Do plan to join us.

SAVE THE DATES!

June 28, 2011 - 1:30-3:30pm PST

When Local Governments and Health Authorities Say “I do”: Creating Formal Partnerships to Improve Community Health

Oct 15, 2011 - 1:30-3:30pm PST

Reading Between the Lines: How Libraries and Literacy Contribute to Health

Jan 19, 2012 - 1:30-3:30pm PST

Beginning With the End in Mind: Creating Safe and Nurturing Environments for Our Very Young

April 19, 2012 - 1:30-3:30pm PST

Beyond the Nest Egg: Feathering the Nest for Healthy Retirement

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

For more information or to register, please contact BC Healthy Communities at bchc@bchealthycommunities.ca or (250)356-0876.