

NAPHRO MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – April 15, 2009

National Alliance of Provincial Health Research Organizations

- ✦ At its April 15, 2009 meeting in Ottawa, NAPHRO **welcomed two new members**, Yves Joannette, President and CEO of the *Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec*, and Jim Davie, Executive Director of the Manitoba Health Research Council. The group also said **farewell to two members**, Donna Murnaghan, Director of the PEI Health Research Institute, and Christina Weise, former Executive Director of the Manitoba Health Research Council.
- ✦ **Changes to the Communications Section of NAPHRO's Terms of Reference** were approved. Shortly after each meeting, each agency will post meeting highlights on its website and the Co-Chairs will share the highlights with the national Forum of Health Research Funders.
- ✦ Several **guests** presented overviews of key initiatives related to health research in Canada:
 - ✦ Jeremy Grimshaw and Mary Ellen provided an update on the **Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre** and announced a new nine-month pilot project for a national license allowing all Canadians online access to the Cochrane Library.
 - ✦ Carmen Gervais updated the group on the new **Canada Excellence Research Chairs** Program, noting that 40 proposals (from 17 universities) would go forward to the final stage this fall.
 - ✦ Bob Kingsley described **Statistics Canada's Longitudinal Health and Administrative Data Initiative**, a partnership between provincial and territorial ministries of health and Statistics Canada that will support comparative research of health determinants and health outcomes.
 - ✦ Maureen O'Neil, Susan Law and David Clements shared the **new strategic directions for the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation**: engaging and supporting citizens; accelerating change; and promoting policy dialogue on healthcare financing.
- ✦ The group heard about an opportunity to sponsor the **Canadian Academy for Health Sciences'** new initiative on **improving access to oral health**.
- ✦ A new NAPHRO **Finance Sub-group** will identify potential **collaborative initiatives** in finance and operations for consideration at the fall meeting.
- ✦ Summaries of **current practices** in several key areas were shared: health services research funding; use of research advisory committees; and tax status and related benefits for postdoctoral fellows.
- ✦ The issue of assessing the **full costs of research** was discussed briefly and flagged for a future in-depth discussion.
- ✦ NAPHRO continues its work on common performance indicators. Its **Impact Analysis Sub-group** will present recommendations in the fall, informed by the CAHS 2009 report *Making An Impact: A Preferred framework and Indicators to Measure Returns on Investment in Health Research*.
- ✦ The **next NAPHRO Meeting** will take place in October 2009, in Saskatoon.