

Research Seminar Series

Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Thursday April 15, 2010, 12:00pm

How Big Is Canada's Public Health Workforce? Does Anyone Know? Does It Matter?

Bart J. Harvey, MD, PhD, MEd, FACPM, FRCPC

Associate Professor & Head, Interdisciplinary Division, Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Seminar Description:



One of the many findings of the 2003 National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health was the nearly complete lack of data about Canada's public health workforce. The Committee further underlined the importance of this lack of information by highlighting that *a highly skilled workforce is public health's most valuable resource* and, as such, *the quality of Canada's public health will ultimately rest on the shoulders of its public health workforce.*

Nearly 7 years later, quantitative information concerning the state of public health resources in Canada is still lacking. One of the initiatives to address this and other related issues was the establishment of a pan-Canadian Public Health Resources Task Group in November 2005. Having been a founding member of this Task Group, Bart will discuss the group's progress and experience, especially current plans to design and implement "enumeration pilots" to estimate the size and composition of the public health workforce in a few regions across Canada.

Guest Speaker Biography:

Bart Harvey is a public health physician-epidemiologist and an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto where he currently serves as the Head of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health's Interdisciplinary Division. Currently, he is also the Chair of the Royal College of Physician and Surgeons of Canada's Specialty Committee for Community Medicine and a member of the Board of the American College of Preventive Medicine. He has previously served as an Associate Medical Officer of Health in Toronto, as the Director of the University of Toronto's Community Medicine Residency Program, and as the President of the Canadian National Specialty Society for Community Medicine.

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