

## **HUMAN SERVICES & JUSTICE COORDINATING COMMITTEE PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**

**Welcome! Bienvenue!...** to the **2nd Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee: Provincial Conference**. My name is Peter Aharan and on behalf of the provincial HS&JCC and your organizing committee I am pleased to be your host. Just in case you may be in the wrong room, this is the Provincial Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee, Conference.

Yes, the HS&JCC, that group brings together representatives from MOH&LTC, MSC&CS, MCSS, MCYS and MAG who will link with CMHA, CAMH and the OPP, or P&P, OPC, the ORB or maybe even CSC. I hope you meet my friends Ian from LPS, Peter from EMDC or Daryl the ARD ACC. Very soon we'll hear from the MPP, the A.G. who has an LLB. Perhaps you're from CHEO, OCI or LAO and over the next two days you may learn more about TCM, CBT, DBT, the LSI-OR, the RAI-MH, or THRP's. So you see... HS&JCC isn't so difficult!

It's wonderful to see so many of you here, 460 delegates; we're sold out! The HS&JCC grew out of the 1997 "key junctures report" of Pauline Radley & Bill Dufton. Since that time HS&JCC's have emerged, developed and evolved in various forms across the province. Today, local and regional committees reach across sectors, ministries and mandates striving to serve those who find themselves in both the human service systems and the justice system of our province. Literally thousands of Ontarians are participating on HS&JCC committees and attending HS&JCC meetings, workshops and conferences.

As I said, this conference is sold out, a clear demonstration of the interest in and importance of the HS&JCC. The focus of our conference is "**Law and Disorder – Creating Momentum for Change**". Some of the best and brightest in the legal and human service fields will be offering you information from the latest research. You will be asked to challenge how we respond to people who find themselves at the cross-roads of the justice system and the human service systems. You will hear about creative "grassroots" approaches and explore many new opportunities for discussion. Over the next two and one half days, it is our hope that you will add energy for your work, learn about some exciting new justice or human service approach and of course, you will expand your network of colleagues and community contacts.

The content of this conference was carefully designed to respond to your requests from the provincial HS&JCC conference of two years ago. Additionally, I'm sure you will find that the material presented reflects emerging or growing trends in our community.

As mentioned, our final registration is 460. Registrations were sold out over 6 weeks ago and the buzz surrounding this conference is growing! We have many sponsors to thank: The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and The Canadian Health Services Research Foundation have provided generous financial support for this event. Thank you, we are most grateful. Canadian Mental Health Association has provided two editions of the “Network” magazine. The winter 2009 edition is devoted to forensic mental health. What perfect timing. Also contained in your registration packages you will find a report published by OMHAKEN (Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Knowledge Exchange Network) called “Building Bridges Between Community Mental Health and Justice Sectors”. Again, this is so timely to our conference.

A conference of this magnitude is only possible through the very hard work of a dedicated organizing committee.

**Please acknowledge our organizing committee:**

Marion Evans (Conference Chair), Christine Devoy, Chris Higgins, Ron Hoffman, Juanita Lawson, Brian Smegal, Sheri Weisberg, Sally Cleford and Vicky Huehn (Committee Chair, Provincial HS&JCC).