



**RTNA 2007 Conference:
Advance Program**

**The Marriott at
The River Cree Resort
Edmonton, Alberta**

October 1 to 3, 2007

**Knowledge
Transfer:
Raising the
Stakes for
System
Change**

Knowledge transfer – moving knowledge into practice. Evidence-informed decision making. Sounds reasonable and simple enough.

Yet policies and practices in the health system often lag well behind discovery, or do not take evidence into account in decision making. The vision of the Health Research Transfer Network of Alberta (RTNA) is a health system where research or knowledge transfer (KT) is understood, valued, and optimized, where all stakeholders are supported and encouraged to express their will and desire to incorporate evidence into policy and practice decisions.

To realize this vision, the RTNA supports a culture of participation, networking, open dialogue and mentorship. This culture creates an expectation and support for the use of evidence while acknowledging the complexity of decisions. The RTNA 2007 conference is one way to help encourage and build that culture.

At this event, participants will learn about knowledge transfer from the outstanding speakers and from each other. We will explore the many challenges, innovations, processes, and practices that support and promote evidence-informed decision making at the individual decision maker, team, and system level.

We have chosen a theme and an image for the conference that plays off our venue and reminds us that KT is about increasing the odds for evidence-informed decision making. It also reminds us that the system needs to change if we are to fully realize the benefits of knowledge transfer and evidence-informed decision making. The opportunities the conference offers to gain knowledge, make new contacts, and learn new skills will help to “take the chance out of KT.”

Program themes

- Need for system change
- System support and what organizations look like when they practise this way
- Thinking creatively – tools and strategies
- Realities of KT: ethics, politics, and consumer involvement

Objectives

To promote the use of evidence in policy and practice decisions in health and health care, and to strengthen the Research Transfer Network of Alberta.

Delegates will have a chance to:

- learn from our speakers who will take us beyond the basics of research and knowledge transfer and share their experiences of putting knowledge transfer into action.
- learn from each other by making connections with a wide variety of disciplines and perspectives on knowledge transfer.

Host

Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research

Who Will Attend

- Health care researchers
- Health care managers
- Policy makers
- Health care practitioners
- Knowledge transfer practitioners

Planning Committee

- Donna Angus, Manager, Research Transfer Initiatives, AHFMR, Conference Chair
- Nadine Gall, Manager, Knowledge Exchange and Utilization, Knowledge into Action Department, Calgary Health Research, Calgary Health Region
- Sherryl Hoskins, Director, Quality and Legislated Services, Peace Country Health
- Kathy Hunter, Senior Advisor, Regional Director's Office, Health Canada
- Amanda Newton, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta; Clinician Scientist, Women's and Children's Health Research Institute, Stollery Children's Hospital
- Brenda Wayne Perry, Director, Research, Alberta Mental Health Board
- Dino Roppo, International Education Officer, Advanced Education and Technology

Conference Agenda

Monday, October 1, 2007

1800 – 1900	Registration
	Dessert / Coffee and Tea
1900 – 2000	Opening Remarks Dr. Kevin Keough, CEO, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Exploring the Theme – Raising the Stakes for System Change Dr. Lorne Taylor, Taylor Consulting Inc. Lorne Taylor will set the stage for the conference with an exploration of how evidence is or is not used to inform policy decisions.

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

0730 – 1600	Registration
0730 – 0830	Breakfast
0830 – 0930	Opening Remarks Christa Harstall, Director, Health Technology Assessment Unit, Institute of Health Economics Keynote Speaker: The Need for System Change Alison Kitson, Supernumerary Fellow, Green College, University of Oxford Dr. Kitson will explore the role of institutional leadership in innovation and evidence-informed practice; the importance of KT within the context of the environment or setting in which change is to be implemented; and the new organizational approaches needed to enable and facilitate KT and evidence-informed decision making at both the policy and practice levels.
0930 – 1000	Networking Break and Poster Viewing
1000 – 1200	Panel #1: What Does An Organization Look Like That Practises This Way? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carol Rimmer, Former Director, Research, Calgary Health Region• Pat Martens, Director, Senior Researcher, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba• Nancy Lefebvre, Vice President, Knowledge, Saint Elizabeth Health Care• Louise Yates, Vice President, Strategy and Customer Experience, Farm Credit Canada There are exemplar organizations that have made evidenced-informed decision making a way of doing business and providing care. Our panel of speakers will talk about the processes, practices, values, structures, and challenges in making this happen.
1200 – 1330	Networking Lunch
1330 – 1450	Abstract Oral Presentations
1450 – 1505	Networking Break and Poster Viewing
1505 – 1625	Abstract Oral Presentations
1625 – 1725	Reception and Poster Viewing

Conference Agenda

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

0730 – 1500	Registration
0730 – 0830	Breakfast
0830 – 0845	Opening Remarks Judy Birdsell, Principal, On Management Health Group To get us grounded and prepared for another packed day, Dr. Birdsell will start us off with her take on lessons from Day 1.
0845 – 1015	Panel 2: Thinking Creatively – Tools and Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cynthia Johnson, Professional Practice Leader, Home Living, Capital Health• Michael Aherne, Managing Director & Senior Consulting Principal, Responsive Strategies Inc.• Kari Simonson, Clinical Coordinator, Canmore Hospital, Calgary Health Region All across Canada, individuals, teams and organizations are developing and test-driving tools and strategies to move evidence into practice. This panel of speakers will provide us with an overview of creative projects, programs and processes.
1015 – 1045	Networking Break and Poster Viewing
1045 – 1200	Panel 3: Reality Check – The Politics of Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maureen Dobbins, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, McMaster University• Linda Barrett-Smith, Manager, Research Ethics Initiatives, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research• Kathy Kovacs Burns, Associate Director, Health Sciences Council In a perfect world, knowledge transfer is well understood and appreciated, and evidence is incorporated into policy and practice decisions. But what about the ethical challenges around KT? How do we know if knowledge transfer is working? How should we practice KT with consumers? Our panel will explore the realities of knowledge transfer from a variety of perspectives.
1200 – 1300	Lunch
1300 – 1400	Using Learning Networks to Improve the Odds for Innovation Ann Casebeer, Associate Director, Centre for Health and Policy Studies; Faculty Director, SEARCH Canada Networks can be a powerful source of enriched capacity for system change. This presentation and discussion will explore the role and power of 'learning networks.' Examples of their value for developing and using knowledge to improve the odds for innovation will be provided. The intent is to stimulate debate about their potential to nurture change in complicated and complex policy- and decision-making environments.
1400 – 1415	Networking Break and Poster Viewing
1415 – 1515	Cold Leadership Brian Keating, Head, Conservation Outreach, Calgary Zoological Society Our conference will finish with an insightful presentation by Brian Keating from the Calgary Zoo on the Shackleton expedition, how they survived and what insights this gives us into our own abilities and possibilities as leaders in knowledge transfer.
1515 – 1530	Closing Remarks

Venue

The Marriott at the River Cree Resort
300 East Lapotac Blvd
Enoch, Alberta T7X 3Y3
Telephone: (780) 484-2121
Toll-Free: 1 (800) 960-4913

Registration and Accommodation

How to Register

Register Online: www.buksa.com



Registration Policies

1. Your registration must be completed using the online registration form.
2. VISA or MasterCard are the accepted methods of payment. Your statement will read "Buksa Assoc. (780) 436-0983 Edm." The RTNA 2007 Conference does not accept cheques.
3. Advance registrations will be accepted until September 25, 2007. After September 25, 2007, registrations will only be accepted on site.
4. Notice of cancellation must be made in writing to the Conference Secretariat (rtna@buksa.com). A \$60 cancellation fee will apply for conference registrations cancelled up to September 14, 2007. After this date, no refunds will be issued.
5. Substitutions may be made until September 25, 2007 or on site and must be made in writing to the Conference Secretariat (rtna@buksa.com).
6. A confirmation notice and receipt will be emailed to you within 10 working days of completion of the online form.

Registration Fees

(Fees do not include GST)

Early Bird Registration

(Up to and including September 7, 2007)

Regular Registration

\$ 300.00

Student Registration

\$ 50.00

One day fees

\$ 175.00

Full Registration

(After September 7, 2007)

\$ 375.00

\$ 75.00

\$ 200.00

Students must provide a copy of a valid student card or course schedule. This can be attached to the registration form or faxed to (780) 437-5984.

If your organization is GST exempt, please fax a GST exempt letter to (780) 437-5984

GST (6%) - GST # R1240725

Accommodation Policies

1. All guest room reservations at the Marriott® at River Cree Resort must be made through the Conference Secretariat.
2. A room block and special rates have been secured at Marriott® at River Cree Resort for conference delegates.
3. Guest room reservations are made on a first-come first-served basis, subject to availability.
4. Reservations must be received by August 29, 2007 and are based on availability. After this time, reservations will be subject to general availability at the prevailing corporate rate.
5. Rooms must be guaranteed with a major credit card (VISA, MasterCard or American Express). Reservations may be cancelled up to 48 hours in advance of the check-in date without penalty. A one-night deposit will be charged for cancellations made less than 48 hours in advance of check-in.
6. Conference rates are offered three days before and three days after the meeting dates of October 1, 2007 to October 3, 2007, subject to availability.
7. There is no charge for parking.
8. All room rates are subject to a 4% provincial tourism levy, the 6% Goods and Services Tax (GST) and a 1% Destination Marketing Fee.
9. Triple and quadruple accommodation is available at an additional cost of \$20.00 CAD per person, per day. The Marriott® at River Cree Resort allows a maximum of four (4) adults per guest room. Children under the age of 18 years, sharing a room with their parent/guardian(s) stay at no charge.
10. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. Check-out time is 11:00 a.m. You may check in earlier depending on occupancy levels and availability of "ready" rooms.

The room rate for standard rooms is \$119.00 / night.

The Marriott® at River Cree Resort guest and meeting rooms are 100% smoke free.

For more Information

RTNA 2007 Conference Secretariat
BUKSA Conference Management and Program Development
Suite 307, 10328-81 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 1X2
Telephone: (780) 436-0983 Ext. 227

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For more information contact:

RTNA 2007 Conference Secretariat

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