



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TWO ORGANIZATIONS JOIN FORCES TO PROMOTE HEALTH IN
COMMUNITIES ACROSS NORTH AMERICA**

Community-academic partnerships viewed as key strategy

Toronto-based Wellesley Central Health Corporation and Seattle-based Community-Campus Partnerships for Health today announce a partnership to promote health in communities across North America through community-academic partnerships. Both organizations view these partnerships as a key strategy for understanding and addressing the complex determinants of health, and ultimately achieving healthier communities.

“Health-promoting partnerships between communities and academic institutions are gaining ground in both Canada and the United States,” says Sarena D. Seifer, CCPH’s Executive Director. “The time is right for partnerships in both countries to collectively build on our successes and lessons learned.”

“We began with a local vision of advancing partnerships in community-based research to improve the health of our communities,” expressed Rick Blickstead, Wellesley Central’s Chief Executive Officer. “We are now gaining recognition across North America for our innovative and leading edge work in capacity building for community-based research.”

The first initiative of the partnership is the launch of a Community-Based Participatory Research electronic discussion group (or listserv) as a learning and information sharing resource. To sign up, go to <https://mailman.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/cbpr>

Additional collaborative activities in development include: **partnership brokering** by building a database of individuals and organizations interested in community-academic partnership approaches to health, **developing new resources** to support community-academic partnerships and **enhancing the broader acceptance and status** of community-based participatory research and community-based learning. Joining the CBPR listserv is one way to be kept informed about these initiatives and opportunities for involvement. Interested individuals and organizations are also encouraged to become members of Community-Campus Partnerships for Health at www.ccph.info.

About Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH)

CCPH is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. These partnerships are powerful tools for improving health professional education, civic responsibility and the overall health of communities. To learn more, visit www.ccph.info.

About Wellesley Central

Wellesley Central emerged out of the closure of one of Canada’s leading inner city hospitals that focused on the health of marginalized communities. In its current inception Wellesley Central no longer provides direct care but is dedicated to building and strengthening communities through assisting coalitions, enhancing capacities and through supporting community- and policy-relevant research. To learn more, visit www.wellesleycentral.com