

**For immediate release
June 15, 2009**

Tommy Douglas award comes to Manitoba (and a community near you)

Manitoba's Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative (CDPI), a partnership between the health-care system and communities across the province, has won a national award for innovative health-care delivery.

The Tommy Douglas Celebration of Medicare Award for innovative health-care delivery was presented in Toronto (June 3) and announced by Healthy Living Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross and Health Minister Theresa Oswald.

"Manitoba communities have developed creative and innovative ways to encourage healthy eating and promote an active lifestyle, helping prevent chronic diseases," said Irvin-Ross. "This award recognizes Manitoba's leadership in healthy living and I congratulate the many community leaders and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote healthy communities."

Eighty-three Manitoba communities take part in the initiative, which is funded by Manitoba Health/Healthy Living and Public Health Agency of Canada.

"This is exciting news," said Betty Kozak, CDPI Training Coordinator. "Our CDPI committees have made a difference in their communities and we are thrilled that their successes are being recognized nationally."

The award was presented by the New Health Professionals Network, which represents 20,000 students training in medicine, pharmacy, nursing and chiropractic care.

"By addressing lifestyle factors including smoking cessation, physical activity and healthy eating, the Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative empowers citizens to reduce their risk for chronic disease," said Brynne Stainsby, president of the Student Canadian Chiropractic Association, and chair of the Tommy Douglas Celebration of Medicare Awards selection committee. "The selection committee was impressed with the grassroots efforts focused on evidence-based, integrated programs and especially pleased to note the focus on creating a sustainable program."

Kozak said the CDPI "recipe for success" has many ingredients, including the partnership with the Alliance for the Prevention of Chronic Disease (Manitoba), with the Regional Health Authorities and with the many community partners. "This award goes to each and every volunteer who has worked in their own communities to find a way to create environments for healthy living."

For more information contact Betty Kozak 204-476-7843 or 204-476-0467 or email bkozak@arha.ca.