

**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Chilliwack Division of Family Practice hosts Partners in Health Care Community Forum**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Chilliwack Healthier Community Forum engages community in health care

**Chilliwack, BC-** Local doctors are seeking your opinion on how to make your health care system work better for you. The Chilliwack Division of Family Practice is a non-profit society that represents physicians in Chilliwack, Agassiz-Harrison, Seabird Island and Hope. In collaboration with other health authorities, the Division is implementing a provincial health care initiative called A GP for Me. A GP for Me is a collaboration between the Doctors of BC, Ministry of Health and the Chilliwack Division of Family Practice. It is designed to improve the family physician-patient relationship and to better meet the needs of unattached patients. During A GP for Me's planning and assessment phase, surveys were conducted with community members and with family doctors in the fall of 2013 regarding access to primary health care.

With the results from the surveys just coming in, the Division hosted a community forum on February 26 to share research findings and obtain community feedback. Katrina Bepple, Program Manager for A GP for Me, adds, "For any community initiative to be successful, it is important for community members to be engaged and involved in the decision-making process. With the community forum, we shared what we've found about how people in our community access primary health care. More importantly, we engaged community members in discussion about this issue, soliciting input from all members in our community about how we should proceed with the findings and what can be done to make access to primary health care easier."

The Partners in Health Care Community Forum introduced the community to the Division's activities and reported back on the survey findings and insights. The community forum was held at Squiala Community Hall, Chilliwack. Similar forums will also be held in surrounding communities, including Hope. The forum is the fourth in a series being held by the Chilliwack Healthier Community. The Chilliwack Healthier Community focuses on the concerns of Chilliwack residents, from housing and mental health to public safety and healthy lifestyles. The outcomes from the Partners in Health Care Community Forum will be presented and reviewed at the final forum on March 12, 2014, titled Time for Action. Registration for this forum can be done through <http://chilliwackhealthiercommunity.eventbrite.ca>

For more information, please contact:

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