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e-Health 2002: A New Era of Health Care Delivery

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Destination Vancouver

For the third year running, Canada's two most proactive health informatics organizations, the Canadian Institute for Health Information and COACH: Canada's Health Informatics Association, are collaborating to present the nations key informatics conference, *e-Health 2002: A New Era of Health Care Delivery*. This year's destination is Vancouver, B.C., at The Westin Bayshore Resort & Marina on April 20-23rd.

Reaching into a new Era

E-Health technologies and applications are changing at ever-increasing speeds and the dynamics of the business surrounding their implementation and application are keeping pace. Thus the theme of this year's conference is appropriate and timely.

The organizers surveyed health informatics professionals and stakeholders as to the topics and issues that are important to them as they face this new era of health care delivery. Consequently, this year's event features presentations and discussions focussing on security and privacy, the electronic health record, telehealth, and patient safety. The Program Committee received over 195 proposals on the various tracks identified in the Call for Participation. With so many proposals to choose from, the committee was able to select quality presentations to ensure delegates a well-rounded and informative program.

Pre-conference workshops will provide participants with some "take home and apply" tools and strategies. The topics include: *Implementation and Evaluation of Telehomecare; Electronic Health Records: Making it Work—Practical Experiences from the Field; Organizational Readiness for Clinical Information Technology; Culture, Change Management, and Evaluation*; and *Privacy and Security Assessments: What they are. How they are done.*

As always, the Conference will also provide attendees with plenty of opportunities to see and learn about the latest in health information technology solutions made available through the extensive vendor exhibit area. With vendor space selling out by the end of January, the informatics business community is clearly indicating the high importance that this conference represents.

Networking opportunities to informally share experiences and knowledge will abound as key decision- and policy-makers gather for less formal conference get-togethers.

Setting the Stage-Keynote Speakers

The ideal conference keynote address is delivered by a speaker or speakers who command respect for their professional achievements while setting the tone for the direction of an event. The keynote speakers for *e-Health 2002* fulfill both these requirements.

Rex Murphy, who describes himself as "a *Newfoundlander* biting at the heels of Canadian conservatism," will be taking on Canadian health care in his opening address. He promises to respond to the many health reports that have been released over the past year by "connecting the dots from coast to coast."



Rex Murphy

This well-known icon of Canadian television and broadcast is the host of CBC Radio's weekly open line current affairs program, *Cross Country Checkup*. He is also a regular commentator on *The National Magazine* and editorial contributor to CBC Radio's *Definitely Not the Opera*.

One of Canada's best known journalists, Pamela Wallin has interviewed hundreds of well known authors, actors and thinkers on her television show, *Pamela Wallin's Talk TV*, and other similarly formatted shows in different incarnations. Following publication of her most recent book, *Speaking of Success*, Wallin was diagnosed with cancer. She has agreed to close the e-health conference by sharing her heart-warming story of the trials and tribulations that she endured and how she found the courage to make it through them.



Pamela Wallin

Successes and Challenges of Health Information Systems

Success in implementing healthcare information systems depends on good technology and good management. Attention to people, organizational and social issues is crucial. Bonnie Kaplan, PhD, Senior Scientist, Boston University Medical Information Systems Unit and President of Kaplan Associates, will describe in her plenary address, how evaluation can be used to identify these key issues so as to achieve the benefits that information technology can bring.

Back by popular demand, *Under the Covers—One Year Later*, a panel of gurus of provincial health information systems will again take the stage to have a candid look at the successes and challenges to provide better and more effective information services for provincial programs. The chair will be Richard Alvarez, President and CEO of CIHI. He will lead the group of distinguished Pan-Canadian panellists in a discussion to explore their views and insights on this topic.

