

## Acknowledgements

The organizers would like to thank the following organizations for their sponsorship of this conference:

- Bureau of Women's Health and Gender Analysis, Health Canada
- Institute of Gender and Health, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- Women and Health Care Reform
- Women's Health Contribution Program, Health Canada

This Conference would not have been possible without the assistance of the Advisory Committee:

- Lorraine Greaves, British Columbia Centre of Excellence for Women's Health
- Margaret Haworth-Brockman, Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence
- Ellisa Johnson, Aboriginal Women's Health, Health Canada
- Joy Johnson, Institute of Gender and Health, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

and peer reviewers:

- Brenda Beagan, Dalhousie University
- Pamela Harrison, Transition House Association of Nova Scotia
- Brigitte Neumann, Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- Kataryna Wolf, Dalhousie University

*Thank you for your participation  
and have a safe trip home.*

## Keynote Speaker **Michele Landsberg** *Feminism and Women's Health in Canada*

Sunday, March 15, 2009 7:30–9:00 pm  
Commonwealth Ballroom A, Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax



Michele Landsberg is known as one of Canada's most tireless and effective social justice activists. Through the National Speakers Bureau (NSB), she brings her incomparable experience and insight to audiences, and challenges them to explore the potential for human progress.

Whether dealing with feminist issues, media, politics, health care, education, homelessness, poverty, George Bush's "right wing war on women," or the plight of women around the globe, she writes as she speaks and as she lives – with passion, insight and wit. A breast cancer survivor, she has written about her personal struggle with the disease and she continues to probe for links between the current epidemic and environmental causes.

Through her columns, she gave a strong public voice to many of those who would otherwise have no voice. Her readers energized her, and she took very seriously her "privileged position" as a member of the mainstream media in being able to speak out on their behalf.

A tireless supporter, adviser, and activist to feminist, anti-poverty and social justice endeavours, she has served on the boards of organizations for assaulted women, global feminism and the cause of peace in the Middle East. She is the author of three best-selling books (*Women and Children First*, *Michele Landsberg's Guide to Children's Books*, and *"This is New York, Honey!" A Homage to Manhattan, with Love and Rage*) and, for 20 years, has been a regular reviewer of children's literature on CBC Radio.

As a journalist and speaker she discusses issues that others shy away from or ignore, including the plight of women in developing countries and race and gender equality here at home. Her work has brought many important issues to light and influenced countless opinion leaders across the country. She has been recognized with numerous awards such as the YWCA Women of Distinction Award and two National Newspaper Awards during her time at the Toronto Star.

Using research to improve policy and practice in women's health

LOOKING BACK

THINKING AHEAD

March 15–18, 2009

Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax

# Welcome to the Conference

Dear Participants:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the conference, *Looking Back, Thinking Ahead: Using Research to Improve Policy and Practice in Women's Health*, hosted by the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (ACEWH) in Halifax, Nova Scotia from March 15–18, 2009. As ACEWH Executive Director and Conference Chair, I offer greetings to the participants who have come to share research, policy, insights and experience in women's health. The aim of ACEWH is to produce policy-oriented research on Canadian women's health, and this conference is a tangible reminder of the necessary work we (and you) do to improve the health of all women and girls.

Our keynote speaker, Michele Landsberg, is a renowned social justice activist championing racial and gender equality in Canada and developing countries. Her public discussion on Sunday, March 15, 2009, entitled *Feminism and Women's Health in Canada*, promises to be an engaging reflection – personal and professional – on the ways in which feminism and the women's health movement have helped to shape social, political and research agendas in the area of women's health. I sincerely hope you will be able to join us for this rare appearance of one of Canada's most influential social commentators. Be sure not to miss our conference plenary speakers either: Lorraine Greaves, Joy Johnson, Ellisa Johnson, Jessica Yee, Billy Rogers, Theda New Breast, Erin Wolski, Marion Stevens, Jim Johnson, Oumy Tousse and Ndack Diop.

The presentations, panels and posters scheduled during our four-day conference will explore a variety of women's health concerns, such as indigenous women's health, mental health, sexual health, health care policies and programming, and women's environmental health considerations. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities represented by our diverse program to learn and share knowledge with others.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to ACEWH's principal funder, the Bureau of Women's Health and Gender Analysis, Health Canada. Through the Women's Health Contribution Program, this division of Health Canada has worked tirelessly to improve the health of women and girls in Canada, including offering direct support for ACEWH, the British Columbia Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, the Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence, the National Network on Environments and Women's Health, and the Canadian Women's Health Network during the past dozen years. Additionally, ACEWH has benefitted enormously from the financial and administrative support provided by Dalhousie University and the IWK Health Centre, which has made many research and knowledge translation projects – and the *Looking Back, Thinking Ahead* conference – a reality. Finally, Conference Coordinators, Mary Ann Martell and Stephanie Hunter, and the staff of the Atlantic Centre of Excellence are to be commended for their hard work, perseverance and genuine excitement in making this event happen.

For many years I have wondered what shape a conference such as this one would take, and I am so very pleased that each of you is here to make it a reality. The mix of academics, policymakers, community members and students gathered here underscores the importance of treating women's health as a cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary, multicultural, reflective and ongoing process. In *Looking Back*, we can celebrate all of the achievements made in the name of women's health, and by *Thinking Ahead*, we can anticipate and plan a multitude of ways to work together on exciting new research and policy development in the interests of women's health. Thank you for joining us on this rich and rewarding journey.

Best wishes for an exciting conference,  
Barbara Clow  
Conference Chair  
Executive Director, Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health

# Conference Program at a Glance

All events are located at the Westin Nova Scotian.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2009

3:00–5:00 pm	REGISTRATION; POSTER SET-UP
5:30–7:00 pm	OPENING RECEPTION
7:30–9:00 pm	KEYNOTE ADDRESS <b>Michele Landsberg</b> <i>Feminism and Women's Health in Canada</i>

## MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

7:30–9:30 am	REGISTRATION
8:00–8:45 am	BREAKFAST
8:45–9:30 am	ABORIGINAL OPENING CEREMONY – Catherine Martin WELCOME – Barbara Clow
9:30–11:00 am	PLENARY PANEL <i>Gender and Research, Policy and Practice for Women's Health</i> Lorraine Greaves, E.D., BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health; Joy Johnson, Scientific Director, Institute of Gender and Health, CIHR
11:00–11:15 am	HEALTH BREAK
11:15 am–12:30 pm	<b>Aboriginal Women, Gender and Violence</b> Jim Johnson, Siiwid Enterprises; Erin Wolski, Native Women's Association, Sisters in Spirit Group
12:30–2:00 pm	LUNCH Ardath Whynacht, spoken word artist Ashley Julian & Samantha Lewis – traditional Aboriginal dance
2:00–3:30 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS (For a list of presenters with their abstracts, see <i>Concurrent Sessions Abstracts</i> in your registration kits.) 1 <b>Health and Gender Equity</b> – Commonwealth Ballroom A 2 <b>Social Determinants of Health</b> – Maritime Room 3 <b>Knowledge Translation</b> – Bedford Room
3:30–3:45 pm	HEALTH BREAK
3:45–4:30 pm	POSTER PRESENTATION
4:30 pm	BOOK LAUNCH Co-host Bob Haywood, owner of Outside the Lines bookstore, Quinpool Road, Halifax <b>A Place to Call Home: Long Term Care in Canada</b> Edited by Pat Armstrong, Madeline Boscoe, Barbara Clow, Karen Grant, Margaret Haworth-Brockman, Beth Jackson, Ann Pederson, Morgan Seeley, Jane Springer

**Tuesday Evening Performers** (in order of appearance)  
MC Candy Palmater  
Toira Aidoo and the students from Shannon Park School  
African drummers and dancers  
The Raging Grannies  
Taryn Della, poet and motivational speaker  
Sarah Loucks, singer and songwriter  
The Shining Lights Choir  
Rose Madden, folksinger and musician, l'Acadienne  
We'koqma'qewiskwa – The Women of We'koqma'q

## TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009

8:00–8:45 am	BREAKFAST
8:45–9:00 am	ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING REMARKS – Barbara Clow, ACEWH
9:00–10:30 am	PLENARY PANEL <i>Gender and Indigenous Women's Health and Wellness</i> Theda New Breast, New Breast Consultants, Montana USA, Blackfeet Nation; Billy Rogers, Consultant, Native Wellness Institute, Oklahoma, Kiowa Nation
10:30–10:45 am	HEALTH BREAK
10:45 am–12:30 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS (For a list of presenters with their abstracts, see <i>Concurrent Sessions Abstracts</i> in your registration kits.) 1 <b>Women and Health Care Reform</b> – Commonwealth Ballroom A 2 <b>Women and Physical Activity</b> – Maritime Room 3 <b>Women and Cancer</b> – Bedford Room 4 <b>Gender-based Violence</b> – Lunenburg Room
12:30–1:30 pm	LUNCH
1:30–3:00 pm	<b>International Perspectives on Women's Health</b> Marion Stevens, Health Systems Trust, South Africa; Oumy Tousse; and Ndack Diop, SAHARA (Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance), Sengal
3:00–3:15 pm	HEALTH BREAK
3:15–4:45 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1 <b>Women and Substance Use</b> – Commonwealth Ballroom A 2 <b>Sexual and Reproductive Health</b> – Maritime Room 3 <b>Race and Health</b> – Bedford Room 4 <b>Research Methods</b> – Lunenburg Room
4:45–6:00 pm	SELF-TIME
6:00–9:00 pm	DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT – Atlantic Ballroom Dinner libation – Wayn Hamilton MC for the evening – Candy Palmater

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009

8:00–8:45 am	BREAKFAST
8:45–9:30 am	ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING REMARKS – Barbara Clow, ACEWH
9:30–11:00 am	CONCURRENT SESSIONS (For a list of presenters with their abstracts, see <i>Concurrent Sessions Abstracts</i> in your registration kits.) 1 <b>R-E-S-P-I-T-E...Find out what it means to me! Women Caregiving With Disabled Children</b> (panel presentation) – Commonwealth Ballroom A 2 <b>Rural Women and Health</b> – Maritime Room 3 <b>Women's Health and the Environment</b> – Bedford Room
11:00–11:15 am	HEALTH BREAK
11:15 am–12:45 pm	PLENARY PANEL <i>The Future of Research, Policy and Practice for Women's Health</i> Jessica Yee, The Native Youth Sexual Health Network; Ellisa Johnson, Aboriginal Women's Health, Health Canada
1:00–2:30 pm	LUNCH & CLOSING REMARKS ABORIGINAL CLOSING CEREMONY – Catherine Martin